

# NUMISMATIC REVIEW



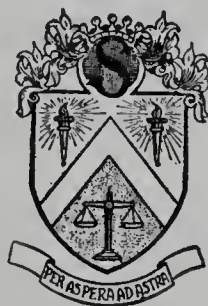
*A Scientific Digest  
Pertaining to Coins, Medals and Paper Money*

No. 10 (Vol. 3, No. 2)

APRIL, 1946



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\$8.00 for Two Years

\$2.50 per Copy

*A Scientific Digest  
Pertaining to Coins, Medals and Paper Money*

Published Quarterly by  
NUMISMATIC REVIEW  
12 West 46 Street, New York 19, N. Y.

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## EDITORIAL

Although the world still must be thought of as in the earliest stages of convalescence after the long years of war, it is a pleasant thing to notice that one of the symptoms of recovery we observe is a revival of numismatic studies. True, even during the darkest years, numismatists continued to study coins, and to collect them. But now we see in many quarters an increase of interest. New periodicals are being founded—great and small ones—as old ones revive. It seems a good time to send a word of congratulation to all who are doing good work for numismatics, here and abroad.

T. O. MABBOTT.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

“Lights are on again in Numismatics.”

The requests for changes to permanent addresses have increased in recent months to such an extent that it appears as though life is to become normal once again. Many of the requests were from homecoming servicemen and we were especially glad to make these changes. This settled condition must be spreading world-wide. Our colleagues in Italy write that the *Revista Numismatica* is ready for printing again. From Chile comes a new work on Chilean coins. From “way down under” in New South Wales, our friends are holding regular meetings and from their last report it seems they had to use candle-light. From Brazil, Switzerland, Denmark, France, India, England and other parts of the world, collectors, dealers and museums have taken a new outlook upon numismatics and, of course, many are continuing from where they left off.

By many members of our advisory staff and our host of expert writers, we have been assured that they will resume many of the famous old series. The *Numismatic Review* will continue to print important timely articles. Some of the articles which appeared at first sight of minor interest have turned out to be important studies. We call attention to our series of new varieties, on inedited U. S. coins. Another series of important articles referred to the metallic composition of ancient coins. We can go on indefinitely, praising all of the writers, and we are sure that the readers are also grateful.

World War II is now almost past history and before it is entirely a memory we hope that one of our enterprising students of modern numismatics will supply us with valuable information and, if necessary, refer to it as “Numismatics in the War.” A complete listing of all paper money will be as welcome as listing of the metallic currency.

The editors and publishers extend an invitation to all serious collectors to write on any subject pertaining to numismatics which hitherto has not been published. Unsolicited testimonials assure us that many collectors cannot wait until the next issue appears; they feel that the articles are so authentic and well written. We feel certain that with the *Numismatic Review* you will be a better informed numismatist.

Cordially yours,

J. B. & M. M. STACK.

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## THE NEW HAVEN MINT

By NORMAN BRYANT

There have been several different writers that have described the founding of the "Company for Coining Coppers" that minted the majority of the Connecticut Cents and some of the Fugio Cents. They have also described the interest that various men had in the Company and some have gone into excellent classifications of the Connecticut Cents as to die variety.

In Mr. Edward E. Atwater's "History of The City of New Haven to The Present Time" published in 1887, we find the best statement as to where the mint building stood. However, we can learn more about the location of the mint and the house that the superintendent of the mint lived in. It is particularly interesting to collectors of colonial coins.

Therefore, I hope this article will give new information to those that are interested in historical facts as well as not repeating those things we already know. Unfortunately, there is not very much data available as to the mint building itself or to the actual workings of the mint. However, there is interesting information about the house that the superintendent of the mint lived in.

I had the pleasure and good fortune of meeting a local New Haven historian, an elderly gentleman by the name of Mr. Arnold G. Dana, who has done a splendid and accurate tracing of various industries in New Haven. Mr. Dana, on learning what my interest was, began to give me leads to what I had been hunting for. He showed me a photograph of an early map owned by the New Haven Colony Historical Society and showed me a picture of the house that the superintendent of the mint lived in. Fortunately for me he gave me copies of the pictures he owned.

This map is designated "Plan of the House and Land Adjoining it Belonging to Daniel Greene, New Haven, 1815." At the bottom of the map there is different handwriting which says "House bought by Capt. Greene in 1795."

If one will look at the map (Plate IX), one will see under "References" that the various houses on his property are designated by letters. One will find that "A" stands for "House" which was Capt. Daniel Greene's home and that "B" stands for "Copper Store" and "D" for "Counting House."

"Copper Store" either was the name given to the mint building or was a name given to it after Capt. Daniel Greene had acquired the property. "Counting House" obviously meant accounting house, where the business was transacted.

The original map is well worth while to describe for it is, I believe, the best indication as to the location of the mint building itself as well as the superintendent's house. Mr. Arnold Dana describes this document, which is understood to have been written by George Dudley Seymour, as follows: "This map, in India ink and water color, is on a fine quality of paper mounted upon linen, tacked at the ends to small wooden rods having flattened surfaces for the attachment of the ends of the map, and provided with delicately-turned knobs or balls at either end. The map measures 12 x 26 inches. The upper rod measures  $15\frac{1}{8}$  and the lower  $15\frac{3}{8}$  inches, both measurements being to the tips of the balls."

"The edges of the map are bound with faded, green silk. The drawing is beautifully done in considerable detail, even to the brick or stone-work leading from the terrace of the house to the street and forming the seawall in front of the house. Along the right-hand side of the map Townsend Street is written in pencil, and does not, therefore, appear so clearly on the photograph. The coloring of the drawing, in different shades of green, blue, pink and pale salmon, is attractive.

The penwork, within the two circles containing the title and references, is very handsomely executed."

The "House" (Plate X) that Captain Daniel Greene lived in was built by Ralph Isaacs in 1771. In 1784, Mr. Isaacs sold his property to Samuel Broome, a wealthy New York merchant, who in turn sold it about 1795 to Captain Daniel Greene, of lavish hospitality. Captain Daniel Greene, according to Mr. Dana, had "a far wetter view of hospitality than had ever been entertained in the port of New Haven prior to his making it. His parties in his fine romantic house (built in 1771 by Ralph Isaacs, a converted Jew and Tory) were long remembered." Captain Daniel Greene was lost at sea. The property was presently acquired by Ebenezer Townsend, a distinguished shipping merchant who died here in 1821 at the age of 82. The property was subsequently acquired by James Brewster in connection with his purchase of 20 acres or more at and near the foot of Wooster Street. It appears to have been known at that time as the "Platt House." (Note: Why it was called the "Platt House" at that time I do not know, unless there was a connection with Jeremiah Platt, who was a member of the firm of Broome & Platt, who it is believed had a sub-contract for the minting of the coins and who I believe also had a home on this large piece of property.) Mr. Brewster sold the property to Harvey Hoadley, whose family occupied it from 1847 till 1877 or later. The house was demolished in 1880.

From this we can learn that Samuel Broome owned this property at a time when the mint was in operation. Mr. Broome was also the superintendent of the mint. "Copper Store" on the map takes on a lot more meaning now. His house adjoined the "Copper Store" at the Northwest corner. It would seem logical that a superintendent would live next to his place of business and particularly when the business was the minting of coins.

With all this information, my wife and myself went down to Water Street to see where these buildings actually stood. So on August 7, 1941, we started by taking measurements starting from the corner of Hamilton and Water Streets on the northwest corner. Our measurements did not include the sidewalks as there were no sidewalks there in those days.

Water Street was then known as East Water Street. Hamilton Street was known as Townsend Street. Franklin Street still keeps the same name.

At the present time the Old Sailor's Home and the Connecticut Importing Company (Botwinick's factory formerly) are located on the sites of the superintendent's home (Samuel Broome's house) and the mint and the superintendent's house on the latter.

The mint stood 290 feet from the corner of Hamilton and Water Streets in a westerly direction. This was the furthest corner of the mint building. The easterly corner of the building is 235 feet from the same corner. Thus the building was 55 feet long. Now to compare this with present buildings and land, the mint building's western boundary is in the parking lot for automobiles to the west of the Connecticut Importing Company building. The end of the building stood about in the center of this lot. The building was 20 feet wide and hence this mint building went back partly into the parking space and partly where the Connecticut Importing Company building is today. The southern front of the building is partly in the parking space and the end of the building easterly is to the right of the front steps to this Connecticut Importing Company building and slightly to the right half of the first ground floor window.

The Samuel Broome house stood next to the mint and joined it at the northeast corner. This house stood 20 feet back from the road, Water Street. This house had a western boundary of 235 feet from the corner of Hamilton and Water Streets and its eastern boundary was 175 feet from this same corner. The building was therefore 60 feet long. So the superintendent's house stood as follows: western boundary was from right of front steps of the present Connecticut Importing



Company building and slightly to the right half of the first ground floor window to eastern boundary which is to the left of the front steps of the present Old Sailors Home and slightly to the right of a screen below the porch of the Old Sailors Home and slightly to the right of the center of the bar of the screen.

From the western corner of the Connecticut Importing Company building to half way west in the parking lot along the edge of the sidewalk can be seen the reddish brown foundation stones where a building once was. The measurements are almost exact to the end of this foundation wall of the old mint building. It would be extremely interesting to know if the old mint building had a cellar. If it had, it might be interesting to excavate to see if any of the tools or coins were buried there.

Fortunately not all has been lost by time, for the safe that belonged to Messrs. Broome & Platt is still in existence today. The John E. Bassett Co., hardware store, owns this old safe which is in their store. At the time of their one hundredth anniversary they published a booklet telling among other things of this old safe. See Plate XI. The title of the article regarding this is "Some Ancient Thynges" in "Our Poffeffion"—"An Old Safe." (In quoting, we substitute the lower case "f" where the original used old fashioned "long s."—ED.)

"Perched on top of the bigger and more pretentious fafe which contributes to the fecurity of our ftore to-day, ftands a modeft looking "ftrong box," fuggeftive of remote antiquity."

"The "jimmy" of the laft century muft have been a fadly unimproved tool, or it may be that the fimple folk of that time had too little leifure to cultivate its ufe as a fcience, fince the conftruction of this fafe indicates the moft perfect faith in the honefty of fociety generally."

"It has a hiftory too, not uninteresting: we fufpect its maker lived in England, though we can trace it no farther back than as being the property of Meffrs. Broome & Platt, who one hundred years ago manufactured in this city under government contract what were known as "Ring Coppers." Thefe were the fize of the copper cent, now a rarity in circulation, and bore upon the reverfe, an hour glafs, the date, and the fententious advice "Mind your bufinefs;" upon the obverfs, thirteen rings around the margin, and in the centre, the legend "We are one." When, at the conclufion of this firm's bufinefs, there followed a sale of their effects, it was bought by the founder of our ftore, Mr. Titus Street, and has up to the prefent efcaped the unfentimental atmofphere of the junk fhop."

"A big wrought handle ferves to pull its door, and on looking further one finds an oval efcutcheon which yields to the touch of a fpring and being pufhed back difclofes a keyhole which as compared with the modern "is not fo deep as a well, nor fo wide as a church door." A key (Plate XI) ponderous in proportion, throws back four creaking bolts and we look in upon an interior (Plate XI) which contains no treafure now, except the faint odor of ancient books and papers, and the memory of the generations of men, who came on earth and fpent a little while in its quiet companionship then crumbled into duft."

"This fafe was the only one in the fervice of the ftore until the death of Mr. E.B.M. Hughes in 1864."

"It will give us pleafure to fhow this relic of the paf."t."

This old safe was undoubtedly kept in the "Counting House" where the accounting was done, for this store speaks of books and papers that were kept in it. However, it may have been in the mint building itself or "Copper Store."

I had the good fortune of being able to purchase a picture of the "House" (the same that Mr. Arnold Dana gave me) but this one hung in the house. Along with this picture, which is framed, was a newspaper article about this interesting house. The owner of the picture and article was a

Mr. James Guernsey, whose mother, before her marriage, was a Hoadley, lived in this house on Water Street. It was from Mr. Guernsey that these facts were learned.

The article which follows is copied from a copy of *The New Haven Sunday Register*—July 17, 1881.

“THE SMUGGLER’S RETREAT”

“FOUND IN A WATER STREET HOUSE”

*“A Residence Which Abounds in History and Traditions in which Romance, Possible Crime, Hidden Treasures, Ghosts and Revolutionary Generals Play an Important Part—A Portrait Said to be Painted by Titian.”*

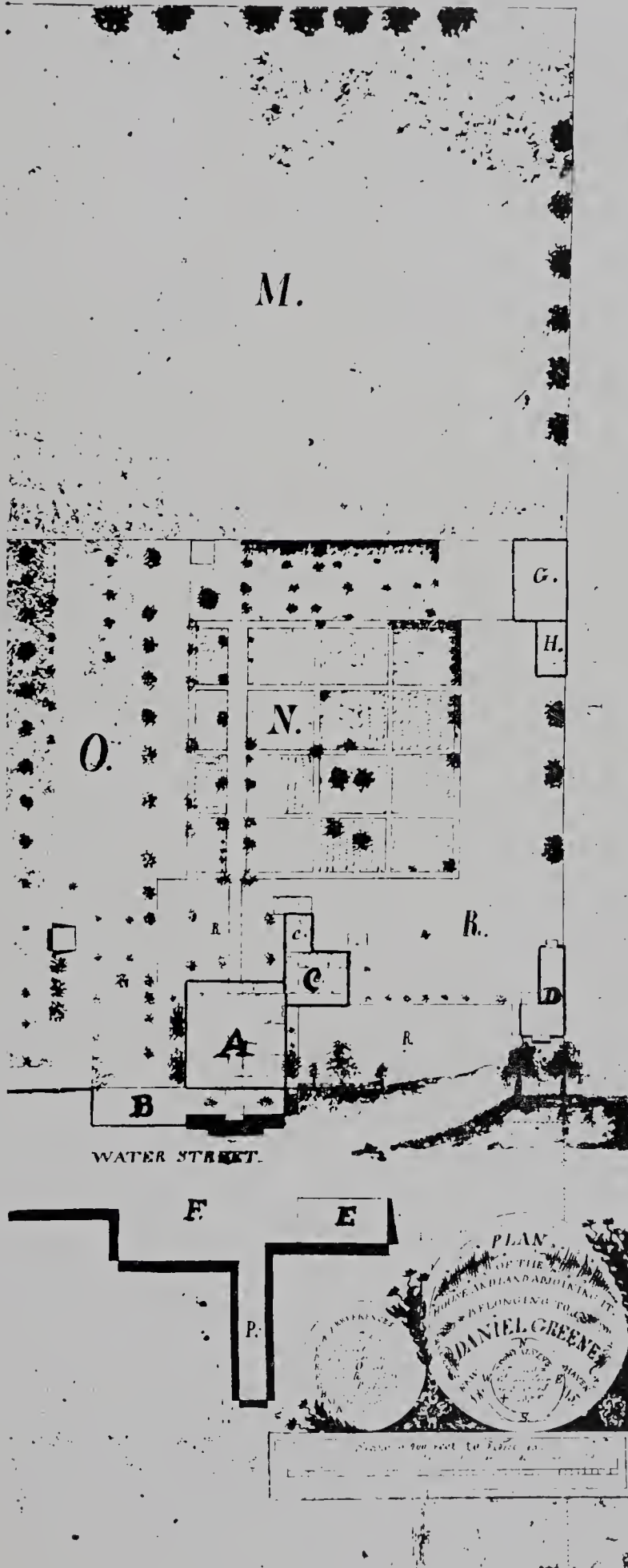
“There is or was a smuggler’s cellar on Water Street, Captain Storer or any one else to the contrary notwithstanding,” said a gentleman as he finished reading the article in last Sunday’s Register, “and you can find it in the Hoadley homestead on Water Street just west of Sargent’s big collection of factories. It is number 65 I believe, and can easily be found because it is the oldest looking house on the street, and stands in a yard in which there is a profusion of elm and horse-chestnut trees.”

“The directions were scarcely needed for the house is well known to every one who has strolled through Water Street, and who has not—to enjoy the refreshing breezes—though they are not always particularly fragrant—which sweep up from the sound. Water Street, were it not for the huge factories, mills, and other hives of industry lining the water side of the street, would be one of the most delightful spots in the country. Raze the factories and buildings which obstruct the view and keep the breezes, in a measure, from coming to the residences on the north side of the street; dig out the mud which has accumulated and substitute a sandy bottom and both the west and east shore would sink into insignificance as summer resorts. Not that the Register would have this done. Rather by far would it have the east and west shores built up with factories and the similar incentives to growth and prosperity, and the beautiful shores wiped out of existence as pleasure resorts, than see any one of the factories or evidences of life and industry in the locality alluded to disappear. There are plenty of shore resorts near enough to take their places. There can never be too many manufactories in and about New Haven, as monuments of the material wealth and business prosperity of the city, to satisfy the Register. But walking along this once romantic Water Street, rich with historical reminiscences and legendary lore, one cannot help but think what wonderful natural advantages the spot had for a watering place, and how materially they might have been improved by the expenditure of capital under the direction of some skilled landscape gardener, some Ik Marvel of the past.”

“One hundred and sixty-four years ago, or in 1717, there was a deed recorded as Mrs. Guernsey who lives in the house informed our representative, in which the present timeworn and rather dilapidated looking structure was referred to as Ralph Isaacs’ new house, and in the same record is mention made of his store on the little wharf jutting out into the harbor from in front of the old residence. A fence erected many years ago separates it from the road, and the old, fancifully carved gates which were formerly the entrance to the wharf have probably not been swung open in many years. On the wharf the grass is growing and decay and disuse are noticeable everywhere. It is a sorry sight for the location is one that seems to offer every advantage for commercial purposes which capital and enterprise are alone required to develop. It was on this wharf that tradition has it the smugglers landed the goods they were endeavoring to put on the market without going through the, what they deemed unnecessary process, of paying duties.”

“The house, aside from its age, and the series of traditions connected with it, is a veritable curiosity, and whether it was built by Ralph Isaacs for a dwelling place, or by a band of smugglers

WOOSTER STREET.



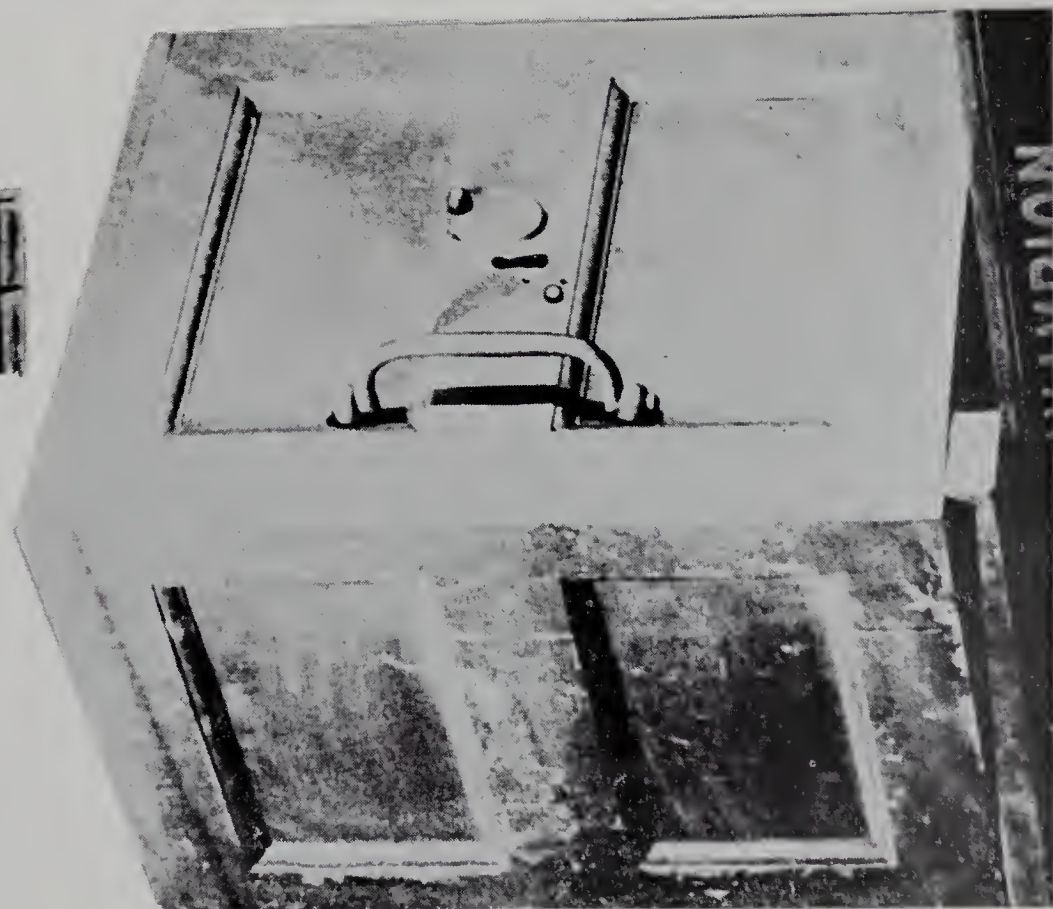
References

- A. House
- B. Copper Store
- C. Kitchens
- D. Counting House
- E. Store
- F. Dock
- G. Barn
- H. Chaise House
- M. Back Lot
- N. Garden
- O. West Garden
- P. Wharf
- R. Yards













for illegitimate purposes, it was built in the most substantial manner possible, and carpenters of the later days who have been called upon to make alterations on the interior say it is most solidly constructed building they have ever seen. The floors are of bay-wood, and nearly all the other wood work is cherry, grown almost as hard as iron during the nearly two centuries in which it has stood as a part of the house. The timbers used are massive, and the rafters great beams. As Mrs. Guernsey, who conducted the visitor through the house, from the famous cellar to the spacious garret, remarked: "Whoever built this house must have been an oddity, for there are no two rooms in the house alike, no two windows of the same height and width, the plates of diamond-shaped glass used different in different windows, and the window sills of different widths, some quite wide and others very narrow—a mere strip of wood."

"And it is singularly constructed house, with wide halls on both stories, wider than a majority of rooms in the houses constructed to-day, high ceilings, massive woodwork, and rooms large enough for an ordinary society hall. These have been altered somewhat, especially by its two latest owners, Hon. James Brewster and the late Hervey S. Hoadley, both of whom previously owned the property where Sargent's factories, the old Pavilion, and the Boston Buckboard factories now stand, as well as other property in the vicinity. In the great west parlor of the first story stands a book-case which, when the house was originally constructed, was a parlor pipe organ of English make, and upon which perhaps the smugglers played to while away the hours on shore after their dangerous vocation had been safely ended. Perhaps it may have responded to the touches of the fairy fingers of the ladies of Ralph Isaac's household, and made sweet music for the entertainment of more law-abiding visitors than smugglers. What a story the old pipes now stowed in the garret could tell were they possessed of the power of speech. Speculation might weave romances weird, and charming stories, melo-dramatic or tragic in their character. They are for the romancist or essayist of the Edgar A. Poe stripe, however, rather than for the humdrum pen of the newspaper scribe, and he leaves for the dreamer the pleasant duty of making for himself the story of the organ pipes. Perhaps the reader may be assisted, he, in his melancholy dreaming, as he sits and watches the smoke-wreaths from his cigarette or cigar, and she, in her romanticisms, as she sits lazily fanning herself, if the writer adds incidentally the current legend of a half century or more ago, now rapidly fading away. It is, as one will naturally suppose, that the house is or was haunted by the spirit of a fair woman who had a century or more ago died in one of the large chambers in the second story, some say, by a murderer's hand; others that she pined away, the victim of unrequited love."

"Whatever the facts relative to the legend, it is certain that Mrs. Hoadley and her daughter, Mrs. Guernsey, well remember the stories about the house being haunted, and how women and girls used to with fear and trembling steal up to the house, press their faces against the panes, and then, hurry away with screams as they heard, or imagined they heard, the wail of the unfortunate spirit and saw her moving through the spacious halls and up the elaborately carved staircase of solid mahogany brought from England for use in building the house."

"In the east parlor hangs a portrait in oil, cracked, dingy, and faded, which bears on its back the figures of the year in which it is supposed to have been painted—1570. It is said by some to be the portrait of an Italian princess painted by Titian. By others it is claimed to be the portrait of the woman of more than a century ago whose spirit roamed about the house. Whoever it is a portrait of, the original, if there was one, was a handsome woman and a fit subject even for the brush of Titian. If it is one of his, and connoisseurs who have examined it are not prepared to say that it is not, it is of almost priceless value, for it must have been painted by him six years before his death, and when in his 93rd year. His last work was painted when he was in

his ninety-ninth year and of it the best critics have said the execution gave marked evidences of that perfection in coloring, thought and detail which marked the works of his less mature years and when he was in the full vigor of manhood."

"But it is with the cellar that the more practical of our readers will be interested, for the cellar is the one formerly used and probably occupied by smugglers. At present a boarded floor is laid to better accommodate the present dwellers in the house. Underneath this floor and the dirt which has collected in the nearly two centuries since it was laid is a flooring of cement. The side walls are of heavy rock, securely cemented together, and of considerable thickness. The beams on which it is laid, and the other timbers used did service centuries ago as spars or masts in some sturdy vessels. Solid and firm as ever they are to-day and would stand if they were permitted for probably another century to come. At the east end of the cellar are two large vaults, possibly vaults used for the storage of wines, liquors, and other goods. In the mind of the romancer they are vaults wherein were hidden until they could be removed to a more secure place the treasures which the smugglers, while acting as pirates or privateersmen, had obtained."

"It is the south wall of the cellar which interests one the most deeply however for its massive wall in which is cut a huge gateway certainly tends to bear out the assertion that it was once a smuggler's cellar. Two very heavy wooden doors hang now as they did when the wall was first erected, the inside guardians of the entrance. The outer gateway of iron was removed many years ago, and where it once hung is now a heavy wall of stone which effectually bars up the entrance to the gateway. This was filled when the street was raised many years ago by Mr. Hoadley. Tradition has it that through this subterranean passage way the smugglers carted their goods from the wharf opposite into the cellar where they were secreted until they were disposed of to their confederates."

"The romance of the cellar is gone when one looks about him and sees the commonplace things that to-day are ordinarily assigned to a cellar scattered about him, but a glance at the holes underneath the planks and through the cement floor deep down into the earth recall to mind the searchers for the hidden treasures, which it has been currently reported through nearly half a dozen generations, are hidden somewhere about the house or grounds."

"The house stands on a knoll a number of feet above the yard on the west and in this knoll, it is stated, is hidden a huge vault in which untold treasures, plate, etc., are hidden waiting only the enterprise of some one to be exhibited to the world. Hervey S. Hoadley and a hired man once dug into the embankment down a depth of some 12 or 15 feet, but failed to find the vault of tradition, and old wise heads who have heard the stories relative to the spot shake their heads and say, discovery would have been certain had the digging been carried on further north, at the north-western corner of the house, where the vault certainly lies."

"In the yard is a double horse-chestnut tree which always attracts attention in the spring, and connected with it is a curious fact. One half of the tree blossoms one year and the other half the next, and this alternation of blossoms continues yearly, save once in seven years, when the entire tree becomes a mass of handsome flowers. This peculiarity is inexplicable, even by the theory that the tree is two trees in one, for this would not explain the blossoming on all the branches once in seven years."

"The old house has quite a history, for in addition to having been the headquarters of smugglers, Generals Washington and Gates visited here, and the then owner, a Mr. Broome, who was blessed with twins named them respectively George Washington Broome and Horatio Gates Broome. The house at one time was a hotel, was the residence of the Hon. James Brewster and was also used by General Russell as his residence and military school."

"At one time there was in front of the yard and house a high stone wall, which reached to a level with the piazza now standing, and which prevented the passers-by on the street or in-comers by water from seeing what was progressing inside the yard and house. This would effectually have hidden smugglers from view, had this been the purpose of the wall, but it is more probable, as Mrs. Guernsey says, that the wall was built to protect the house and grounds from the high seas that might roll in unusual high tides or storms. Still the tradition about the smugglers is the more interesting, and so perhaps it had better stand."

This unusual story of the old house is most interesting even though the author rather romanced about this home. If the old mint were described in like manner, we would be blessed with some fine data regarding it. However, it is interesting to note that in the picture (Plate X) that there does not seem to be any sign of a building attached to this house at the left corner of the house. The old mint building was evidently not standing at this time. Also, it is of interest that Mrs. Guernsey does not speak of this building, where the actual coins were minted. Therefore, it is a guess as to what happened to the old mint building.

There are letters which Yale University has inherited from the present Mrs. James Hillhouse that were written by the Honorable James Hillhouse who was one of the founders of the mint. Unfortunately, these letters miss the very period when the mint was in operation. These letters were from the Honorable James Hillhouse to his wife. He was in Washington and his wife in New Haven. There is no mention of the mint in his letters.

There are also letters that have come into the possession of the Connecticut State Library in Hartford written by James Jarvis, the man who was granted permission by the government to mint the first legally authorized money (the Fugio Cent), and which I understand do not state anything about the old mint. I have not had the pleasure of examining these letters.

If any collector has additional information regarding the mint or its operations or the men who had anything to do with it, I certainly would appreciate hearing from them.

This article could not have been printed if it were not for the courtesy of Mr. Arnold G. Dana, the New Haven *Sunday Register*, the John E. Bassett Co., and for those publications that we already know about. My sincere thanks to all of these people or organizations for their help.

The main sources of my information are the following:

1. Mr. Arnold G. Dana, New Haven, Conn.
2. The New Haven *Sunday Register*.
3. The New Haven Colony Historical Society.
4. John E. Bassett Co., New Haven, Conn.
5. Mr. Edward E. Atwater's "History of the City of New Haven."
6. Henry T. Blake in his "Chronicles of the New Haven Green."
7. Sylvester S. Crosby in his book "The Early Coins of America."
8. Dr. Henry Bronson's article "A Historical Account of Connecticut Currency, Continental Money, and the Finances of the Revolution" in Volume No. 1 of Papers of the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

## A NOTE ON THE SASSANIAN MINT MONOGRAMS

By ALFRED R. BELLINGER

Sassanian coins have been studied chiefly by palaeographers for the very good reason that Pehlevi legends present difficulties which only experts in that field can handle. The articles of A. D. Mordtmann in the *Zeitschrift der Deutschen morgenländische Gesellschaft* are still the fundamental systematic studies, the results of which are conveniently summarized by F. D. J. Paruck, *Sāsānian Coins*, Bombay, 1924. Paruck himself has some items of importance to add, as has Jacques de Morgan, whose *Numismatique de la Perse Antique* forms part III, Volume 1 of Ernest Babelon's *Traité des monnaies grecques et romaines*. But it is obvious to the numismatist that the whole field needs to be reviewed from the point of view of historical and geographical probability, and with an eye to the appearance of the coins as well as to their inscriptions. Nowhere is this more apparent than on the issues, from Bahram IV on, bearing marks which, in some cases certainly and in most cases probably, indicate different mints. The marks have attracted the ingenuity of Pehlevi scholars who have sought to read the letters as parts of the names of recorded towns, but it comes to the layman with something of a shock that no one seems to have attempted to find which monogram represents the main mint at Ctesiphon, the capital!<sup>1</sup> Yet the solution lies ready to hand even for one, like the writer, who has no ability to read Pehlevi whatever.

Khusrau V reigned for part of the year 632-633 at Ctesiphon (Paruck, *op. cit.*, p. 119). His coins bear the mint mark NIHC and no other. Therefore, NIHC, however it is read, *must* represent Ctesiphon. This conclusion is confirmed by two facts. First, this mint is used by all previous kings from the second reign of Kobad I, with the exception of the pretender Bistam (592-600) who never reigned in the capital, and whose only mint, RD, is known to be Rayy (George C. Miles, *The Numismatic History of Rayy, Numismatic Studies, No. 2*, New York, 1938, pp. 1-4). Second, Khusrau's successor, Yesdegerd III, the last Sassanian king, used NIHC for the last time in his seventh year, that is 637, the year in which he abandoned Ctesiphon to the Arabs.

Before the second reign of Kobad I, NIHC never appears. But we cannot suppose that the capital was not used by the kings from Bahram IV to Jamasp. When we look for the mints which all of these monarchs used, we find there are three: RD, AS, and VH. The first has already been identified. Both of the others present the same problem: they continue after the beginning of NIHC, AS through the reign of Khusrau II (590-628), VH through that of Ardashir III (628-630), and in some years all three monograms are used. The dilemma is not fatal. The Parthian mint had been not at Ctesiphon, but at Seleucia (R. H. McDowell, *Coins from Seleucia on the Tigris*, Ann Arbor, 1935, p. 179) and it is probable that it continued to operate at Weh-Ardashir, Seleucia's Sassanian continuation. A second capital mint, across the river, may easily have been opened by Kobad without at first interfering with the earlier one, until, in the period of decline, there was no need for two. It is interesting to see that Paruck (*op. cit.*, p. 187) notes that VH could well stand for Weh-Ardashir. The most prominent suggestions for AS are Aspahan and Asfabur. Without presuming to settle philological questions beyond his powers, the layman might observe that Seleucia, Rayy and Ispahan would be an eminently suitable trio of mints to find in constant operation from 388 to 499.

<sup>1</sup> See, however, the suggestions of E. Hirzfeld, "Achaemenid Coinage and Sassanian Mint-Names" in *Transactions of the International Numismatic Congress*, London, 1938, pp. 419, 425. He identifies what was probably the "palace mint." While reverse mintmarks probably begin with Bahram IV, there seem to be sporadic mint letters on the obverse, as early as Shapur II; see *Numismatic Circular*, xliii, 300 (1935).

## AN OVER-STRUCK SASSANIAN BRONZE

By EDMUND ZYGMAN

Numismatists repeatedly point to over-struck coins as a helpful medium to interlink historical events.<sup>1</sup> They often serve as evidence of commercial intercourse between different countries, or of temporary occupation by enemy armies.

Bronze and potin coins of the Sasanian Kings of Persia are exceedingly rare, while the silver output of their numerous mints is plentiful. The scant bronzes are scattered here and there over the entire period following the downfall of the Arsacid empire, almost to the invasion of Persia by the Arabs. However, the best known specimens were struck by the founder of the dynasty, Ardashir I (Artaxerxes) A. D. 226-240, and by his immediate successor, Shâpûr I (Sapor) A. D. 240-271.

The first issue of Ardashir Pâpakan limited to silver drachms and half-drachms follows the old Parthian and Persepolitan pattern. This portrait on the obverse is presented facing, like most of the revolted Arsacids, while his father's head on the reverse is turned to the left; each is wearing a Parthian tiara. Sometimes both heads are turned to the left.<sup>2</sup> Similar coins were struck by Ardashir's elder brother and predecessor Shâpûr. Both groups are purely local issues of Stakhar (Persepolis) and have no bearing on the classification of the Imperial Sasanian series. To the same category belongs a very rare half-drachm with Ardashir's head facing and Hormazd's fire altar on the reverse.<sup>3</sup>

Following his successful revolt Ardashir issued a new coinage consisting of gold, silver, potin and bronze. The King's head, wearing a Parthian tiara, resembling the one of Mithradates II, is turned to the right. The reverse is occupied by the fire altar of the Hormazd worshippers, till now found on the autonomous series of Persepolis, and henceforth perpetuated on all Sasanian Imperial coins.

The corrupt Greek and Arsacid Pahlavi inscriptions of the late Parthians are now replaced by Pârsîk, or Sasanian Pahlavi legends, which run alongside the borders of the coins, in place of the old box-like arrangement

Ardashir's third coinage, which concerns us directly, is epochal, for it reveals a new device, purely Sasanian in its conception. Pâpakan now wears a different head-dress consisting of a low cap surmounted by an inflated ball, a detail which remains throughout the entire series. Hormazd's altar appears again on the reverse.

Our coin belongs to this class, and after the overstriking retained much of its original design.

On other issues Ardashir wears a "mural crown" tiara, or is presented with his young son Shâpûr facing him.<sup>4</sup>

The second Sasanian monarch wears a "mural crown" with the now familiar inflated ball. Two figures, which accompany the fire altar on the reverse, seem to resemble Shâpûr himself.

This coin was over-struck in our specimen. It is much worn; nevertheless, it shows on the obverse parts of each head with its characteristic head-dress. On the reverse, Shâpûr's type, occupying most of the flan, leaves but little space for the flames of Ardashir's fire altar, which are clearly visible.

<sup>1</sup> Newell. *Mithradates of Parthia and Hispasines of Characene*. 1925, A.N.S. Monographs.

<sup>2</sup> Herzfeld. *Kushano-Sasanian Coins*. 1930, p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Paruck. *Sasanian Coins*, plate I.

<sup>3</sup> Morgan. *Numismatique Orientale*. 1936, p. 288, figs. 370-372.

<sup>3</sup> Herzfeld. *Archaeological History of Iran*. 1935, pp. 76-77.

<sup>4</sup> Rawlinson. *The Seventh Oriental Monarchy*. 1876, p. 67.

<sup>4</sup> Valentine. *Sasanian Coins*. 1921, p. 36, fig. 10.

Most interesting, however, are fragments of the Pârsîk legends. Thus, on the obverse we can decipher the last portion of Shâpûr's title MN IZDAN, while on the reverse, the second half of Ardashir's name: TAR, instead of ATR (!), and a part of Shâpûr's name: HPUHR are easily read.

In view of archaeological and historical evidence of Ardashir's many benevolences bestowed upon his son and successor, it would seem surprising to find such proof of ingratitude on Shâpûr's part, as the profanation of his father's portrait. The real reason of the over-striking, we presume, may have been the shortage of copper due to the frequent wars which Shâpûr was waging during his long reign.

There is to be noticed the revival of fine portraiture on early Sasanian coins as compared with the crude and lifeless heads of the late Parthian kings.

Plate XII presents: A) THE PARTHIAN TIARAS of the Arsacid kings: Mithradates II—N:1 (obv.); Sinatruces—N:2 (obv.); of the Persepolitan princes: Darius II—N:5 (obv.), Kapat—N:6 (obv.), and of Ardashir's second issue N:9, 10 and 11 (obv.).

B) THE SASANIAN TIARAS of Ardashir's third issue and of Shâpûr I N:7 and 8 (obv.).

C) THE BOX-LIKE LEGENDS on Parthian coins: N:1, 2, 3 and 4 (rev.).

D) HORMAZD'S FIRE ALTAR on a Persepolitan coin of Darius II N:5 (rev.), and on Imperial Sasanian coins N:7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 (rev.).

E) OUR OVER-STRUCK COIN N:12 (obv. and rev.).

F) FINE PORTRAITS OF EARLY SASANIAN ISSUES N:7 and 8 (obv.).

G) POORLY EXECUTED HEADS of the last two Parthian Kings, Artaban V and Artavazd N:3 and 4 (obv.).

N.B. N:9 and 11 part potin, 10 and 12 bronze, the rest are silver coins.

In conclusion the author of the article wishes to thank the A.N.S. Museum for allowing to reproduce the splendid Potin coin (N:9) from the late E. T. Newell collection, and to Prof. Mabbott for his valuable suggestions.

## FILM RECORDS OF CURRENCY

Cash grabbed in bank robberies will hereafter be "hot," thanks to a new Treasury Department regulation which permits banks to photograph paper money for record purposes.

Frank J. Wilson, Chief of the U. S. Secret Service, pointed out that currency films will aid law officers in tracking down bank robbers by making it possible to identify stolen bills by serial numbers and other markings. Before the Secret Service initiated this action to amend the regulations, banks were authorized to make film records only of Government checks, bonds and warrants. The new ruling applies exclusively to banks and banking institutions and provides that the films may be projected upon a screen, but that no prints or enlargements may be made without special permission of the Secretary of the Treasury, Chief Wilson said.

As an aid to crime prevention, he also suggested that banks regularly make film records of money stocks which might tempt bandits, and that bankers let it be known locally that such procedure is customary.



1



2



3



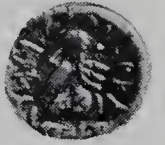
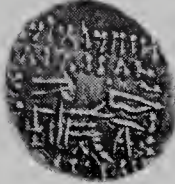
4



5



6



7



8



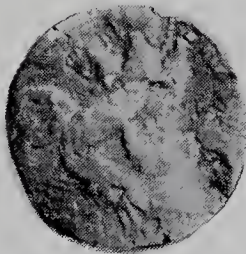
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## ON THE OCCURRENCE OF ABNORMALLY LOW WEIGHT AND SPECIFIC GRAVITY IN ANCIENT COINS

By EARLE R. CALEY

Some time ago Mr. Harry J. Stein sent to me for examination an Alexandrian tetradrachm of Vespasian about which he was puzzled because he had observed it to be of abnormally low weight. This billon coin was of the common type issued in the second year of the reign of this emperor. There was no possibility that it was an electrotype and very little possibility that it was a forgery of any kind. The original observation of Mr. Stein was fully confirmed by me for the weight of this coin as determined on an accurate chemical balance was found to be only 7.16 grams. An ordinary specimen of the same type submitted by Mr. Stein for purpose of comparison was found to have a weight of 12.26 grams. The normal weight of Alexandrian tetradrachms of the second year of the reign of Vespasian, as indicated by the average of the weights of those listed in the work of Milne,<sup>1</sup> is 13.19 grams. Milne lists 15 such coins and their weights range from a low of 11.73 grams to a high of 14.22 grams. Hence the weight of the specimen in question is not only very much lower than the average weight of those in this list but is also much lower than even the lightest one.

It might be supposed that the abnormally low weight of this coin is merely the consequence of unusually small dimensions. However, this is not the explanation. The mean diameter of the coin was found to be about 24 millimeters and its mean thickness about 2.5 millimeters. The average diameter of those listed by Milne is 26.2 millimeters with a low of 24.0 millimeters. Milne does not give any data on the thickness of the coins in his list, but the thickness of this coin as compared to that of other Alexandrian tetradrachms in my own collection is only a little below normal. Since this unusual coin is about normal in size but abnormally low in weight its specific gravity must therefore be much below normal. A careful determination of its specific gravity by the method of Archimedes gave the result 5.80. Pure silver has a specific gravity of 10.50 and pure copper 8.90. Furthermore, from their usual silver content it can be readily calculated that the specific gravity of Alexandrian tetradrachms of the time of Vespasian should not fall much below 9.25. Actually, the apparent specific gravity of the metal of this unusual coin is below that of any normal coinage metal, ancient or modern, with the exception of aluminum and its alloys, and the specific gravities of these modern metals all fall much below 5.80. It might also be supposed that the low weight and specific gravity of the coin is a consequence of the presence of a heavy layer of corrosion products or patina of low density, but actually the coin had a fairly bright metallic appearance and there were indications that it had been cleaned rather recently.

On examining the metal of this coin I first observed that the edge of the flan was so soft in most places that moderate pressure with the finger nail caused easily visible indentations. On viewing scraped parts of the edge under sufficient magnification I saw at once that the metal had a spongy structure. The faces of the coin appeared to be relatively free from this spongy structure, probably because of destruction of it by polishing, but the metal immediately below the surface of the faces was also generally spongy. In fact this sponginess extended deep into the body of the coin. The explanation for both the abnormally low weight and the abnormally low specific gravity observed in this coin is thus obvious for the metal of which it was composed was for the most part spongy and porous, in other words full of minute cavities.

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<sup>1</sup> J. G. Milne, *Catalogue of Alexandrian Coins*, Oxford, 1933, pp. 11-12.

After examining this coin and obtaining the facts above given, I recalled that I had in my own collection a late Ptolemaic tetradrachm<sup>2</sup> that had always appeared to me to be exceptionally light in weight though fully of normal size. The actual weight was now found to be only 7.98 grams. A careful determination of the specific gravity of this coin gave the result 5.66 which is close to that of the coin submitted by Mr. Stein, though actually even a little lower. This coin had also been cleaned. Examination of the metal showed that it had the same sort of extensive spongy structure.

The question that now remains to be answered is this: Was the spongy structure observed in these two coins produced at the time of minting or was it a subsequent development? Aside from the small likelihood that coins of such low weight would have been accepted in circulation there is the strong probability on technical grounds that the spongy structure was a subsequent development. It is not generally realized how deep the processes of corrosion often extend into the metal of ancient coins of billon or bronze that have been buried in the earth for centuries. Though such coins may have only a very thin patina or layer of corrosion products visible on their surface, and thus appear to have been but little affected, the corrosion may in fact extend deep into the metal. This internal corrosion always tends to occur in the boundaries between the grains or crystals of the metal, and frequently the metal of an ancient coin or other metal object is so affected by what is known technically as intergranular corrosion that the actual metal that remains is all or nearly all in the form of numerous isolated grains or crystals wholly surrounded by corrosion products.<sup>3</sup> When a coin extensively corroded in this way is cleaned chemically with solvents, these solvents dissolve out the intergranular corrosion products to a greater or less degree, depending upon the nature of the solvent and the duration of treatment. If the solvent is active and the time extended nearly all the corrosion products may be dissolved out, thus leaving the whole coin in a spongy condition. The action is similar when electrolytic methods of cleaning are used except that some of the intergranular corrosion products will be reduced to new metal that will in part be plated back on the uncorroded metal in the coin. However, the final result is similar for the cleaned coin will seldom be composed of compact metal. It will be remembered that both the coin submitted by Mr. Stein and the one in my own collection had been cleaned. The methods of cleaning are unknown, but it is probable that one of the usual methods for cleaning silver or billon coins was used, such as the use of ammonia water as a chemical solvent or the simple electrolytic method involving the use of lemon juice and iron tacks.

My explanation for the low weight and low specific gravity observed both in the coin submitted by Mr. Stein and in the one in my own collection may now be summarized. I believe that both these coins were originally of full weight and proper specific gravity, that they became extensively corroded internally in the course of long burial in the ground, and that on being cleaned thoroughly by some chemical or electrolytic method the intergranular corrosion products were largely dissolved out, thus leaving behind coins composed of spongy metal abnormally low in both weight and specific gravity.

Certain conclusions of general numismatic interest follow from the results of this special inquiry: One is that the weights of cleaned ancient silver coins of low fineness, which were

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<sup>2</sup> According to the classification of Svoronos this was a coin of Ptolemy XIII struck around 71 B.C.

<sup>3</sup> For a detailed study of the process of intergranular corrosion as it occurs in ancient bronze the reader should consult an article by the author entitled, "The Corroded Bronze of Corinth," published in the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 84, pp. 689-761. Accompanying this article are photomicrographs of the internal structure of ancient bronze which has been seriously affected by intergranular corrosion.

originally much corroded, should be used with caution in any studies of the ranges in weight of such coins, or in obtaining their average weights, especially when these average weights are to be used for the determination of monetary standards or relationships. I suspect that in the past all too many such coins of abnormally low weight have been included in obtaining the average weight of a particular type of coin and that the generalizations based upon such an average weight are not too reliable. There seems to be a tendency in studies based upon the weights of coins to include the weights of all published specimens. This is justifiable when the coins are of gold, electrum, or even of fine silver, but with billon coins it is evident that a considerable degree of critical selection should be exercised. Another general conclusion is that the specific gravity method for estimating the fineness of ancient billon coins may be grossly misleading when applied to cleaned coins that were originally much corroded. It is also misleading when applied to uncleaned coins of this sort. For example, the coin of normal weight submitted by Mr. Stein along with one of abnormal weight was an uncleaned coin in good condition covered with a thin layer of light green patina. The specific gravity of this coin was found to be only 8.15, which is considerably below that of pure copper, to say nothing of being much below what it should be for an alloy of silver and copper. The low apparent specific gravity of the metal of corroded billon coins is caused by the relatively low specific gravities of the various corrosion products such as silver chloride, copper oxide, and copper carbonate. These general conclusions apply with much less force to ancient silver coins of a high degree of fineness, not only because such coins are less likely to undergo corrosion in the first place but also because they are less likely to be corroded internally. Nevertheless, for the purpose of obtaining highly reliable information based upon the weights or specific gravities of ancient silver coins of any sort it is always safer to include only those coins that show little indication of ever having been corroded.

## NEW ISSUES

CHINA: *Gold Coins to Commemorate Sino-American Solidarity*. It was reported in financial circles in Chungking that gold coins in commemoration of Sino-American friendship are being minted in the United States for the Chinese Government. The coins, with a face value of one ounce, half an ounce and a quarter ounce, will be used to pay gold saving depositors. The commemorative gold coins bear an impress of the Chinese and American flags and the heads of the presidents of the two countries.

JAPAN: Two new small sized notes of the Bank of Japan have been received here recently. The 5 Sen shows a knight on horseback, value and two red stamps of the bank; the 10 Sen shows a large building or monument, value and bankstamps on the obverse. Reverse on both is similar, value on ornamental background. They are undated and are replacing the earlier Aluminum coins.

PARAGUAY: 50 Centimos 1944 ALBR. Obv. Lion, staff with liberty-cap, inscr. Paz Y Justicia (peace and justice) date. Rev. value in wreath.

ROUMANIA: 100 Lei 1943 Iron. Obverse: head of king, right. Inscription: Mihai I. Regele Romanilor. Reverse: Value, date in wreath, crown above. Inscr. on edge 'Nihil sine Deo' 200 Lei 1942, Silver. Obv.: Head of king, right inscr. Rev.: Arms dividing date, value below.

## A VARIETY OF THE "IDES OF MARCH" DENARIUS OF BRUTUS

By LOUISE AND HARRY J. STEIN

We publish herewith a coin, unquestionably genuine, of the "Ides of March" type of Brutus. It is so different in style from the normal that it deserves special attention. The coin appears on the plate of an 1874 sales catalogue of Leavitt & Co. The catalogue shows the purchaser to be a collector named Anthon, presumably a relative of the renowned Latin and Greek scholar. It later came into the possession of David Prosky, from whose estate it was recently acquired through the firm of Stack's.

The late Mr. Edward T. Newell once remarked that he suspected that none of the "Ides of March" coins was struck by Brutus. He thought they might have been struck a century later or could even be fantasies of the Renaissance. Subsequently he recanted for lack of proof. Professor Mabbott recalls that he made similar statements. Other competent numismatists have expressed the same doubt.

Dion Cassius states that Brutus struck coins "on which were represented a pileus and two daggers." He wasn't born until A. D. 155. Literary evidence is notoriously unreliable for research in ancient numismatics. Brutus might have issued such coins because he regarded the murder of Caesar on the Ides of March as the climax of his career, and as a great event of history. Although we appreciate Dion Cassius' statement and Brutus' possible predilection for a coin of this type, we prefer to consider the problem on more substantial grounds—the weight and style of the coins. We know of no hoard containing them by which the issue can be dated with certainty.

The comparison of style is simplified by placing specimens close together. Row I shows several of the normal coins. Row II is the coin we now publish. Row III illustrates coins of the "Ides of March" type as restored during the Civil Wars of A. D. 68-69. The weight of each coin is given except in one instance in which it is not stated in the catalogue.

**WEIGHT.** The weights of the coins in Row I are representative of the range of the class. In Brutus' time the denarius weighed about 60.2 gr. (84 to the pound). Nero reduced it to 52.68 gr. (96 to the pound). Individual specimens vary a few grains more or less. Since the coins of Row III were struck after Nero's death their weight is within the limits of variance of his standard of 52.68 gr. In Row I some specimens weigh too much in excess of Nero's reduced standard. Six grains and more are exorbitant. That proves they were not struck during the Civil Wars of A. D. 68-69. No authority would so defy Gresham's Law which the ancients understood very well. Our coin weighs 62.5 gr. Reference to the British Museum Catalogue of Roman Republican Coins, Vol. II, pp. 471 to 484, shows the denarius running as high as 63.5 gr. for the period, which is within the reasonable limits of variance.

On the basis of weight we can assign the coin in Row II to Brutus and those of Row III to A. D. 68-69. Although, on the average, the coins of Row I seem light according to the standard prevailing at the time, their weight does not preclude attribution to Brutus. Nevertheless, the average low weight of the class causes suspicion. It seems very low for Brutus and very high for A. D. 68-69. We have seen no record of any specimen weighing 60.0 gr. or over.

**STYLE.** The resemblance in style of the lettering of the coins of Rows II and III is easily noticeable. In both rows the letters seem wanting in precision and care. The daggers are long and narrow. In Row III the obverse has a head of Liberty instead of a portrait of Brutus so that from that aspect we have no basis of comparison. Since our coin is of full weight for the time of Brutus it must belong to him. We believe that because of the similarity in style, the coins of Row II

appear to have been the models for those of Row III. Their difference in style from Row I is obvious. There the letters are sharp and well cut and the daggers short and broad.

CONCLUSION. Coins of the "Ides of March" type were struck by Brutus. The weight of our specimen is consistent with this conclusion. The similarity of style shown by the restoration issue indicates that coins of Row II were used as the models.

Strictly speaking, we have no proof when the coins of Row I were struck. The illustrated specimens are all in perfect state of preservation. The average lightness of weight of these and of all others whose weights we know causes suspicion that they were not struck by Brutus. Yet, they might have been because the variance per piece does not place them out of bounds. We merely say we would think otherwise if confronted with one weighing 60.0 gr. or over.

*Editor's Note:*

In presenting Mr. Stein's very interesting paper, we should like to add a few words on our own views of the Ides of March coinage of Brutus. We had come to the conclusion that they were ancient, and not products of the Renaissance on several grounds, and primarily as a result of consideration of the types of the Brutus coin, and of Civil War denarii, Libertas Restituta. The liberty cap between two daggers is too unusual, too striking, to be likely to be a matter of pure coincidence; one type must be inspired by the other. Now, if one admits this, and we think it is a case where chance of error is less than one in a hundred, the question arises which is the copy. The purely theoretical chances might seem to be exactly equal, if nothing but the design is considered; the design is entirely too simple to allow any argument on which type may have the characteristic of a copy, namely misunderstanding by an inferior workman; there is nothing to puzzle the most stupid die sinker. But the problem may be attacked from the angle of appropriateness of the types.

For Brutus himself, a liberty cap and two daggers is appropriate. He thought of himself as having preserved the state by the assassination of Julius; and that assassination was by means of daggers, several of them. (We had come to this conclusion when we still accepted the idea that the Romans used purely historical types—we have now come to believe that they always had some slight religious significance, that the symbolisms, if thoroughly understood, have something of the ceremonial about them. It of course fits the situation of Brutus, because the daggers were used in what he thought a pious deed, the killing of a tyrant. What later men thought of it is aside from the point. The world disagrees about Brutus; but he is generally admitted to have acted from what he had persuaded himself were good and sacred motives). Grueber quotes the ancient authority for his remark about his devoting himself on the Ides of March.

Now, if the coins existed, and one was known to the rebel mintmaster of a party fighting against Nero, the types of Brutus were highly significant. Note that EID MAR is not used, but there was no likelihood of killing Nero on that day, and when he met his end, it was not on that day. Now, if the type is being invented, why the daggers. The daggers of Brutus are significant; weapons that kill a tyrant. But without reference to Brutus? Nero was likely to die by almost any weapon, and actually died by a sword held by his secretary.

In brief, a logical and poetic symbolism comes out in EID MAR coins as models; the restituta coins as copies. By the way, although extremely scarce, the Restituta pieces are not the kind of thing to interest Renaissance forgers, and indeed have never attracted much attention. But if we reverse the order of appearance, theoretically, we have the absurd situation of someone making a few not very appropriate coins in the provinces, and somebody copying them with the EID MAR as addition. For that reason, we accepted the idea that EID MAR coins existed before A. D. 68; that the restituta coins were "testimonia" to sure existence of a model.

What however troubled us was that, as there were coin collectors in first century Rome, the pieces might be fantasies of that period. There is no doubt that the EID MAR coin would always appeal to any kind of a collector, that specimens can never have been a drug on the market, provided there was a market of any kind for curious coins. The importance of Mr. Stein's attack from the point of view of weights is that first century forgers would hardly have bothered about exact weights; indeed, fourees were probably as acceptable to collectors as pieces of good weight and metal.

Row I	Hirsch XVI No. 1536 55.5 grains	Hirsch XVII No. 1113 57.5 grains	BMC Vol. II Page 480 No. 68, 58.7 gr. *No. 69, 57.6 gr. No. 70, 52.8 gr.	Neville II No. 37 59 grains
Row II		Specimen from the Author's Collection 62.5 grains		
Row III	BMC Page 290, No. 20 56.3 grains	BMC Page 290, No. 21 52.5 grains	Franz Trau No. 522 Weight not given	

In conclusion we point out that the grounds for doubt have always really been more or less chimerical. "The EID MAR coin is too appropriate"—Brutus himself was a dramatic fellow and always thinking about his tyrannicide ancestor. They occur rarely or not at all in known finds. But they are rare, and there must have been two reasons for them to disappear from circulation; an early desire of admirers of Divus Julius to destroy them by melting up, even if there was no actual suppression; a later tendency to collect them as souvenirs.

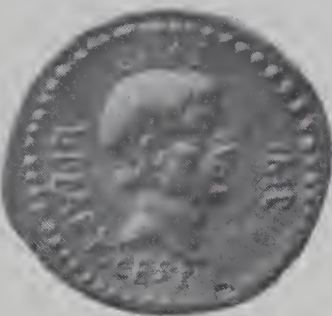
To sum up, we are now convinced that the issue of EID MAR coins was made by Brutus himself, and that the Civil War of 68 produced a restitution. We still think it quite possible that some specimens in modern collections may be made in the first century A. D.

N.B. Our own specimen is a fouree, and has seen much circulation. It is certainly not a Becker, nor of recent manufacture, and we regard it as undoubtedly ancient. But—we do not like it the less, if it can be shown to be of the first century A. D., rather than B. C. It is old enough to be quite venerable.

Row  
I



1



2



3



4



Row  
II



5



6



7



8

Row  
III



ENLARGED





## WHEN GOLD DUST WAS CURRENT

By PHARES O. SIGLER

*"Several times I found that million—  
Of that there was no doubt!  
But it was so mixed in betwixt  
The blooming sand and gravel,  
That I never got it out."*<sup>1</sup>

As a boy I remember my mother telling about one of her Uncles in the "nineties" who had hurriedly left for the Klondike gold fields with the promise that he would bring her a gold nugget as big as her head, a rather optimistic undertaking in view of the fact that he was never heard from thereafter. His disappearance made a deep impression upon me and clothed the Northern gold rush period of our history in a romantic mantle. We are indebted to the famous poet, Robert Service, one of the many who joined the gold seekers, for a vivid description of the effect which the news that gold was discovered in the North had upon those who first heard it:

*"Gold! we leapt from our benches,  
Gold! we sprang from our stools.  
Gold! we wheeled in the furrow, fired  
with the faith of fools.  
Fearless, unfounded, unfitted,  
far from the night and cold,  
Heard we the clarion summons,  
followed the master-lure—Gold!"*<sup>2</sup>

During the winter of 1896-7 vague reports came out of the Yukon that rich deposits of gold had been found on the Klondike. A few brave men left the States in February and March in time to get down the river before the ice broke. Klondike, the name of the fields, was taken from the river bearing that name which flows into the Yukon from the northeast. Dawson, the first Northern gold rush city, was built at a point where the Klondike River enters the Yukon, in Yukon Territory, Canada. It soon became a supply center for the gold seekers, and many men and women of shady character hurried there to relieve the hard working miners of their dust.<sup>3</sup>

We generally associate Alaska with the Klondike and the reason for this is apparently the fact that fields were reached via Alaska or perhaps because later discovered fields in and around Nome and Fairbanks, which led to the establishment of these two cities, soon resulted in the new settlements vying with Dawson for a share of her temporary and shifting population.

The most popular route to Dawson began at Seattle, at which port a steamer was taken for the 1200-mile trip through the beautiful "Inside Passage," and the first leg of the trip ended at either Dyer or Skagway, both Alaskan seaports. The prospectors then had to pack all of their supplies over the terrible Chilkoot Pass involving 11 miles of climbing, "Where every step was a pain."<sup>4</sup> Since the average Klondike outfit weighed about 2000 pounds, and no more than 50 to 100 pounds could be carried up the steep and oftentimes slippery Pass at one time, many trips were necessary to finish that part of the journey and, needless to say, many lost their lives, others received serious injuries, and many of the less resolute became disgusted and quit the race.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cone, C. Edward—Beyond the Skyline, page 78.

<sup>2</sup> From "The Trail of Ninety-eight."

<sup>3</sup> Nichols, Jeannette P.—Alaska, page 142.

<sup>4</sup> Service, Robert—The Trail of Ninety-eight.

<sup>5</sup> Rickard, T. A.—Through the Yukon and Alaska, page 147.

But conquering the treacherous Pass was not the last hardship encountered by the traveler. A boat had to be constructed by the use of what the gold-seekers called the "Armstrong sawmill," laboriously sawing out sufficient lumber for building the clumsy boats necessary to transport them and their baggage on the 600-mile river trip through dangerous rapids to the land of gold. By now the prospectors realized that Nature had hidden her Arctic treasures so well that none but the stout of heart could even approach them.

The scarcity of coin and paper money in Dawson resulted from the lack of adequate banking facilities and the difficulty and expense of freighting it in. The only bank, in which Robert Service was employed as a clerk, consisted of a tent "with an unplanned board for a counter, and for a safe an old trunk filled with bags of gold dust."<sup>6</sup> The absence of a plentiful supply of coin and paper money is well illustrated by the fact that it was referred to as "cheechako"<sup>7</sup> money. In "The Ballad of Blasphemous Bill," Service says: "So I promised him, and he paid the price in good cheechako coin." The plentiful local supply of gold dust made it a natural currency substitute, just as it had served in the earlier California gold fields.

One other factor contributed largely to the success of the substitute currency, and that was the high prices which eliminated the need for small change. The first daily paper, "The Klondike Nugget," sold for 50 cents a copy, but a year's subscription could be obtained for "an ounce and a half of gold dust."<sup>8</sup> Bananas sold for \$1.00 apiece; cucumbers \$5.00 each; candles \$1.25; eggs as high as \$5.00 per dozen; bread, \$.25 per loaf; and butter \$1.00 a pound. A dollar would buy a cigar or pay for a short dance at one of the many dance halls. Coal cost \$150 per ton or \$.10 a pound if purchased by the bucket.

Labor was better rewarded in Dawson than in the States at that time, unskilled laborers receiving from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per day. The following restaurant bill of fare convinces us that it was none too much:

Bowl of soup . . . . .	\$1.00
Mush and milk . . . . .	1.25
Dish canned corn . . . . .	1.25
Dish canned tomatoes . . . . .	2.00
Slice of pie . . . . .	.75
Doughnuts and coffee . . . . .	1.25
Beans, coffee and bread . . . . .	2.00

Fortunately, most of the working men cooked their own meals, and supplemented their income by hunting, trapping and fishing during the appropriate seasons.

The high cost of living did not deter the miners from celebrating when they came to town. In addition to dancing with the professional entertainers, it was customary to purchase drinks for them and lavished spending was the rule rather than the exception. The acts of popular performers were sometimes rewarded by nuggets which were thrown on the stage by the miners. Occasionally the men showed their appreciation for the feminine companionship of their dancing partners by pouring gold dust in their hair. One prospector is said to have spent \$750.00 for cigars and \$3,000.00 for drinks in one evening, and one of the dance hall girls offered herself in marriage to the man who made her the best offer in gold dust. Swift Water Bill was jilted by a girl friend who was very fond of eggs, so he bought up all of the eggs in town to spite her. Service, in "The Shooting of Dan McGrew," describes one of these spenders thus:

<sup>6</sup> *Burr, Agness R.*—Alaska, Our Beautiful Northland of Opportunity, page 120.

<sup>7</sup> A Tenderfoot.

<sup>8</sup> *Bankson, Russel A.*—The Klondike Nugget, pages 1, 90.

*“He looked like a man with a foot in the grave and scarcely the strength of a louse  
Yet he tilted a poke of dust on the bar, and he called for drinks on the house.”*

And again, in “The Man from Eldorado,” a spree is thus described:

*“He’s the man from Eldorado, and he’s only starting in  
To cultivate a thousand-dollar jag.  
His poke is full of gold-dust and his heart is full of sin,  
And he’s dancing with a girl called Muckluck Mag.”*

Because of the inadequate banking facilities it was but natural that the saloon should become a clearing house for the new found gold dust, because it was there that people met, contracts were made, and debts paid. As we shall see later, a scale graced every bar and in the more prosperous establishments each bartender was supplied with one. The miners carried their gold dust in leather pokes, long bags with drawstrings, although some few used bottles for this purpose. When a drink was purchased the miner handed his poke to the bartender who extracted an amount which he estimated to be sufficient, placed it on the scales and added to or subtracted from it until a balance was reached. It was considered bad form to watch the bartender while he was weighing the gold because it would indicate a suspicion of his honesty.

Even an honest bartender, however, had many ways of increasing his earnings. The scales usually were set upon small pieces of carpet kept there to catch any stray gold, and these were burned at intervals. It is related that the gold thus retrieved sometimes amounte to \$2,000.00 per week. Also a damp sponge was kept in a convenient place so that the bartender could carefully wipe his fingers from time to time to get rid of the gold which clung to them. Even the janitors saved the floor sweepings and sometimes panned as much as \$50.00 per day from them,<sup>9</sup> and when a house of ill fame was destroyed by fire, a man was found panning the ashes in the approximate location of the scales.

Much of the gold dust which temporarily evaded the barkeeper’s till later found its way there through the good work of the professional gambler who operated in the same establishment. One writer,<sup>10</sup> in describing the use of gold dust in gambling, said: “You hand the bartender your poke, which is set back of the bar, and you call for chips, valued from \$20.00 to \$250.00. When you quit the Lookout calls to Weigher, ‘In’ or ‘Out’—usually ‘Out.’ Your poke is then either bulged or looks pretty lank.” Another author<sup>11</sup> portrays the employment of gold dust in gambling as follows: “So they take their buckskin bags and hand them over the counter. Some are long and slender, with more room than dust in them, while others are bulky and well-filled like shot bags; but the striking thing about it is that there is no account taken of them. The owner’s name is generally written on the bag, but the dust is not weighed, nor is any entry made or receipt given for it. In their relations to each other these men are much like a big family. Occasionally, however, some dishonest but optimistic player filled his poke with shot instead of gold in the belief that if he won the fraud would not be discovered, but the bartenders soon learned to detect this deception by the ‘feel’ of the poke and its action when tossed on the bar or into a drawer.”

The standard price for pure gold was \$20.67 an ounce in those days—that was the price which the United States mint would pay for it. The gold found by the miners, however, was not

<sup>9</sup> Willoughby, Barrett—Alaska Holiday, page 285.

<sup>10</sup> Hamlin, C. S.—Old Times on the Yukon, page 12.

<sup>11</sup> Ingersoll, Ernest—Gold Fields of the Klondike, page 102.

pure but contained foreign matter. The purest gold was found on the Koyukuk River and it was worth \$20.00 an ounce, but the average gold found in the Klondike graded between \$14.50 and \$19.00 per ounce. It was, however, accepted in trade at \$16.00 an ounce and some of the scales were calibrated in terms of that value, and the weight marked in dollars and cents instead of fractions of an ounce. The smallest marking was \$.25 and all bills were balanced to the nearest quarter dollar and no change given. In view of the high prices, this practice caused little inconvenience.

Everyone who handled much dust became an expert in distinguishing the good from the bad, and it is said that as soon as a poke was opened, the origin of the gold was revealed by the color, size, and even the shape of the particles of gold.<sup>12</sup> This ability to identify the gold together with the difficulty in leaving the country except by known and well guarded routes, was a factor which made thefts of gold very rare. Miners stored their nuggets and dust in their unlocked cabins in "old cans on the shelf, next to the sugar, or in old rubber boots stuck into a corner."<sup>13</sup>

Although more facts have been preserved of the use of the gold dust currency at Dawson, its use was even more extensive in Alaska due to the inadequate facilities there for converting the dust into cash. Also, prices in Nome and Fairbanks were very similar to those at Dawson. By 1905, however, the use of gold dust in trade had about gone out of style not only in Dawson but in surrounding mining camps.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> *Bankson, Russel A.*—The Klondike Nugget, page 202.

<sup>13</sup> *Davis, Mary Lee*—Uncle Sam's Attic, page 63.

<sup>14</sup> *McLain, John S.*—Alaska and the Klondike, page 69.

## ANCIENT CUT DOWN CHINESE CASH OF THE "WU TCHU" TYPE

By T. O. MABBOTT

Recently the firm of Stacks acquired a collection of Chinese coins, consisting chiefly of the well known types. But among them were included a dozen or more ancient cash of a decidedly peculiar kind. They belonged to the well known series inscribed with the characters "Wu Tchu" (five weights or units), and with rims on the reverse around the square central hole, pieces of the type described by Terrien de Lacouperie under No. 315, at page 361 of the British Museum work on Chinese coins. But all these pieces, which to judge from similarity of patina, had been found together, had a common peculiarity; they have been filed down or clipped at the edges, so that only about half of each character remains on each coin, the dimensions of which are roughly .75 inches in diameter. It will be recalled that the central square holes of these coins are very large and the pieces are reduced to about the smallest possible size that allows them to retain the conventional shape of a Chinese coin.

The writer has never come across any reference to such pieces, and presumes that numismatists who did find specimens commonly have rejected them as merely damaged coins. But the finding of over a dozen all alike leads to the conclusion that such things were, whether officially or not, part of the regular system of currency, at certain times when Wu Tchu pieces circulated (that is, from the 2nd Century B. C. to the 5th Century A. D.)—and of course they are exactly parallel to Roman coins clipped so that the inscriptions are no longer preserved, which are well known from about the 4th and 5th Centuries A. D. It seems worth while to call attention of numismatists, oriental and occidental, to this close parallel between phenomena in the East and West. Specimens of the cut down Wu Tchus are now preserved in the collections of the American Numismatic Society and of the British Museum.

## THE PORTRAITS OF THE EMPEROR GRATIAN (Portraiture on Late Fourth Century Roman Coins)

By J. W. E. PEARCE

A solidus, *Concordia Augustorum*, "the harmony of the four Augusti," of Constantinople, has as its obverse a portrait stated by the obverse legend to be that of Gratian. This identical portrait with unchanged reverse appears again, but this time stated by its obverse legend to be that of Theodosius, beneath whose name traces of the original Gratianus are plainly visible. Still a third time this identical portrait, of course with its altered name, meets us, but having the Augusti of the reverse reduced from four to three. Gratian is dead, and the usurper Maximus is not recognized as a colleague by Theodosius.

The possible historical import of this interesting trio of solidi had been discussed by me in a paper read before the International Numismatic Congress held in London in 1936.

Here I am concerned only with the fact of the one and the same portrait doing duty for both the youthful Gratian and the middle aged Theodosius. This, however, will not surprise anyone who has studied the coinage of the period. He will know that the different mints do not agree in a consistent portrait of any emperor, that widely different portraits appear side by side even at the same mint, and that the same die-sinker, working on the portraits of more than one emperor, would represent them all as very much alike.

On the other hand, the agreement of the most widely separated mints in their rendering of details in the reverse types which they struck in common is proof of a central controlling authority, and we may wonder why it allowed such latitude in the portraiture. But as Mr. Mattingly points out (*Roman Coins*, p. 234), we see in this later coinage the "growth of the principle . . . of representing the Emperor rather in his formal aspect than as a living individual . . . Emperor after Emperor is represented with little to distinguish him from his fellows." By a conscious or unconscious symbolism, the individuality of the emperors is subordinated to the conception of the unity of the empire, aptly typified by the virtual identity of their portraiture. But what form that portraiture should take seems to have been left to the "taste or fancy" of the artist. It may be of interest, in illustration of this, to bring together some portraits of a single emperor from a single mint, all dating from a very limited period of time.

The emperor is Gratian; the mint *Treveri* (Treves), where Gratian was in continual residence during the whole period, and must have been well known by sight to all the artists responsible for his portraits. They are all taken from *siliquae* of the *Urbs Roma*, throne type issue. The comparative scarcity of Valentinian I suggests that the issue cannot have been begun very long before his death in November, 375, and it must have ended some time before the death of Valens in August, 378, to allow time for its successor, the *Urbs Roma*, cuirass type, to appear in considerable numbers.

Of these fourteen portraits of Gratian, Nos. 1 to 9 were—some certainly, possibly all—struck before his father's death. But there is no more likeness between them than could be found between any nine boys of the same age in any school classroom. Nos. 5 and 6 are linked by identical reverse die, but show widely differing conceptions of the imperial features. However, Nos. 10 to 14 are the more interesting group. They were certainly all struck after the father's death. Each of these five portraits is matched by corresponding portraits of Valens. Rather strangely I have more specimens of 14 for Valens than for Gratian at its earliest appearance in the throne type issue of *Urbs Roma*, though it soon became appropriate to Gratian.

Gratian was passionately devoted to the pleasures of the chase, and I believe the curls portrait to have originated in the idea of suggesting a comparison of the handsome young Augustus with *crinilis Apollo*, the archer god. This form of flattery is conveyed in another medium, it seems to me, by the two successive epigrams of Ausonius; one praising Gratian's skill with the bow, the other expressing the queen-mother's happiness beyond that of other women in giving birth to—was it a man-child or a god?

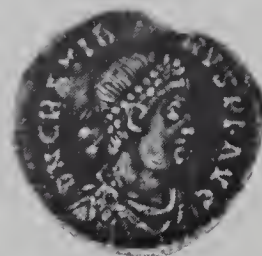
That this portrait could be freely shared by Valens, Gratian's middle-aged and commonplace looking uncle, is a warning that we cannot accept the portraits on the later Roman coinage as likenesses, and the whole series here illustrated proves to my mind conclusively that each artist was at liberty to carry out his own conception of what an emperor should look like on a coin. A still more diversified portrait gallery could be got together for Valens. But he, unlike Gratian, was not personally a familiar figure to the die-sinkers of the Treveran Mint.

## A NUMISMATIC JUDICIAL DECISION

In the case of *Brown vs. Perera* decided by the Appellate Division of the State of New York on February 21, 1918, the court held that the good title to money is acquired by a person who receives it from a thief without knowing that the money was stolen. The court made the following references, which are of particular interest to numismatists:

"Two decisions, mainly relied on by the plaintiffs, require brief notice. One is *Chapman v. Cole*, 12 Gray (Mass.) 141, 71 Am. Dec. 739. The action was conversion for a gold coin, known and current in California as 'Moffatt's Issue.' The plaintiff had passed the coin by mistake for a half dollar to a person who passed it on by like mistake to the defendant. The court held that the plaintiff was entitled to recover because the gold piece was not money and was subject to the rules of law governing chattels. Evidently this coin was nothing more than a piece of gold coined by a man named Moffatt. It was used as currency in a certain locality because the people had confidence in the maker and accepted his name as a certificate of the quantity and quality of the metal. It was not issued by any competent governmental authority. The law merchant, with all its solicitude for the security of commercial transactions, has never gone so far as to extend the qualities of negotiability to coins manufactured by individuals. A bill or note payable in 'Moffatt's Issue' would obviously not be negotiable. This decision therefore does not in any way militate against the views herein expressed.

"The other case is *Moss v. Hancock* (1899) 2 Q. B. 3 wherein it was held that a £5 gold piece, coin of the realm, that had been stolen and sold by the thief to a dealer in curiosities, could be recovered by the owner. Apparently the gold piece was rare and of more than its nominal value, and the decision turned upon the question whether the defendant had received the coin as money or currency or as an article valuable in itself. As Judge Darling expressed the question, 'I ask myself was this gold piece passed on its character as coin of currency, or was it rather the subject of a sale as an article of vertu?' He came to the conclusion that it was 'The subject of a sale as a medal might have been to a dealer in old and curious things.' And Judge Channell thought that the coin had been 'dealt with as if it were a medal, or ancient coin, or other curiosity.' The decision was evidently correct in principle, as applied either to domestic or foreign moneys, but it does not control the present case, where the moneys purchased by the defendant were received by him simply as representative of the values expressed thereon and in their character as moneys of the governments which issued them."



PORTRAITS OF THE EMPEROR GRATIAN  
Enlarged 1½ Times





## ADDITIONAL REMARKS ON THE MEANING OF THE TYPES OF REPUBLICAN BRONZE AT ROME

By THOMAS OLLIVE MABBOTT

[Our article on this subject, we confess, had a curious origin. We began to write it with the idea of producing a very brief discussion of Janus and January, for the first issue of the magazine to bear a January date. Investigation convinced us that the material had received little attention, and our discussion ran to unexpected lengths. However, we had planned it for a definite date, and finally decided to print our beliefs as they stood at that time, even though it involved treating summarily certain problems that we hoped further study might elucidate. This is rather too personal perhaps for proper modesty, but it is the best apology we can make for presenting this brief appendix, on what was treated most summarily in the original article in No. 7 of the *Review*.]

The SEMIS. Mr. Mattingly not only agrees with us, but had arrived at the same conclusion in an article already in type but not issued when our notes appeared.

The TRIENS. The head is helmeted, and severe, on the early issues.

In our first article, we simply continued the traditional interpretation, Minerva, as confirmed by the "three colleagues" issue, where the symbol is the aegis. Mr. Mattingly objects that we have been more or less unfair to his view, that on the early issues, Mars is represented, and that Minerva is a later substitution. Certainly this much apology should be offered; at worst we merely treated this particular problem rather summarily, because we had arrived at a general principle of interpretation—which it happens is not affected one way or the other in this instance; and we dodged a long discussion. But now that Mr. Mattingly has printed his views, we do want to present the problem as impartially as possible.

To begin with what is undeniable; the three colleagues considered the head to be that of Minerva. She is surely a founder and protector of Rome, and so fits. But Mars, as father of Romulus, is also a founder and protector. Mars is the war god, but Minerva is goddess of just wars.

Let us sum up the objections to both interpretations. Against the Minerva theory are the following: the extreme masculinity of the early portraits; the fact that the other members of the Capitoline triad, Jupiter and Juno, are not present in the set of six heads; there are cases of later substitution.

Against Mars are the following: the head is not bearded; there is no other case of REGULAR and permanent substitution; the Romulus story is otherwise avoided on the set. Mr. Mattingly thinks it begins at a time of peace, with which Minerva (despite her occasional martial activities) is easier to fit than the grim war god, Mars. The earliest pictures are, despite great vigor, very crude indeed!

From all this it really can be seen that the decision will rest largely on whether one places much emphasis on the supposed masculinity of the early heads or not. We do not wish to be obstinate, but are swayed by the three colleagues set. We cling to the old interpretation of Minerva, as not yet overthrown by sufficient evidence. Yet, when so great a scholar as Mr. Mattingly thinks something else, we do not wish to be obstinate on the point.

The UNCIA. Here we believe Mr. Mattingly is in agreement with us, though he has not published his views, nor perhaps yet seen all of what we now observe. We indicated in our first article that we thought the head probably that of the patron of Rome. It is not quite certain just what the patron of Rome, as such, was called. But the three colleagues, again, gave a hint about the type of the uncia. Their coinage was probably struck outside the city, and so there is a substitution; the head is Apollo, symbol a lyre. But the substitution of Apollo would most easy be for his sister Diana. Now, Diana is also associated as the feminine associate of Dianus, or Janus.

The ace was missing from the three colleague set; the two units, the ace and the uncia, are the right places for the most important general idea. There is a lot of evidence that Diana was a most important divinity at Rome, and as a warrior goddess, closely similar to Virtus.

The helmeted head on the uncia we regard as the patroness of Rome, Virtus, identified with Diana.

In passing, we would not disregard the literary evidence; in the "Secular Ode" of Horace, written for the celebration of Rome's birthday, there is unexpected and hitherto not explained emphasis on Diana, and on Virtus. We believe that although the name of Rome and of its patron were secrets, it was only improper to mention the names AS the secret names; that the actual names were all the more secret because they were in common use. The great secrets we think were revealed to Horace, and used by him in the Secular Ode in some form quite openly.

We believe that the secret name of Rome was Virtus (or perhaps an even more secret equivalent) and that the patroness was Diana (just possibly under an even more secret name).

SUMMARY. We now believe that the heads on the original series of Roman aes grave were chosen as founders and protectors par excellence of the city of Rome: *Ace*, Janus; *Semis*, Saturn; *Triens*, Minerva (or perhaps Mars); *Quadrans*, Hercules; *Sextans*, Mercury; *Uncia*, Diana, or Virtus (Diana-Virtus).

N.B. Mr. Mattingly's printed views are incidental to general Remarks on "The First Age of Roman Coinage," in *Journal of Roman Studies*, 1945, XXXV, 65ff. Much of the discussion has, however, been in private letters. Comments by Mr. Schanzlin and Mr. Pennington are also acknowledged. Views expressed in the paper are strictly my own.

March 4, 1946.

## THE MILITARY SCRIP OF WILLIAM WALKER, PRESIDENT OF NICARAGUA

By LOUISE AND HARRY J. STEIN

We reproduce herewith a specimen of the military scrip issued by William Walker, president of Nicaragua. So far as we know, it is unpublished. It reads as follows:

"The Republic of Nicaragua is indebted to E. S. Hardy in the sum of Fifty Dollars for Military Services rendered to the State.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our names and affixed the Great Seal of the Republic, at the City of Granada this 31 day of October, 1856.

F. Ferrer

Minister of Hacienda

Wm. Walker

President of the Republic"

The note is countersigned across the face, twice;

"Issued for Naval Service

Rogers"

"Registered, Rogers."

EL NICARAGUENSE PRINT

MILITARY SCRIP

FIFTY DOLLARS

The note is on soft white paper, the dimensions of the printed frame are  $7\frac{9}{16}$  by about 5 inches. The inscription on the portion of the note torn away is highly fragmentary, but enough remains for the belief it read "FIFTY DOLLARS."

FIFTY DOLLARS.

The Republic of Nicaragua

*Ed. Sanchez* in the sum of

FIFTY DOLLARS,

to *Kepler* *Sanchez* Boxes ordered to the State

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our names and affixed the Great

Seal of the Republic, at the City of Granada, this *21* day of *October* 188*2*.

*Wm. Walker*  
President of the Republic.

*Don Juan*  
Minister of Hacienda.

MILITARY SCRIPT.

LL. N. 1882. 10. 21. 10. 21. 10. 21.

REDUCED



In the middle of the 19th century, Central America was divided into five countries, but throughout there were two political parties, the Legitimists and the Democrats. The Legitimists represented the reactionary upper class, referred to in Latin America as the "Calzados," (those who wore shoes). The Democrats represented the rest of the population who were in a general condition of frustration and poverty. They were the underprivileged who did not wear shoes. Alternately some of the republic were controlled by the Legitimists and others by the Democrats. Revolutions were frequent and the ousted politicians generally retired to a country controlled by their own party and plotted a counter-revolution to restore themselves to power.

In the year 1855, in a typical Central American Revolution, Don Francisco Castellon, Democrat president of Nicaragua, was ousted by the Legitimists.

At the invitation of Castellon, there appeared on the scene an American, William Walker, an arrogant and cruel adventurer. He was a pugnacious leader, but his military strategy was usually ill devised. His lack of sagacity in the conduct of his wars and in the selection of subordinates undermined his military and political plans.

Walker was a graduate of the University of Nashville. He studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, in Paris and Heidelberg. He barely started to practice in Nashville when he decided he didn't like it and went to New Orleans. There he studied law and was admitted to the bar. He quickly shunned this profession also and migrated to San Francisco, where he became a journalist.

During the lawless days immediately after the discovery of gold there was attracted to California a conglomeration of hoodlums and adventurers. They were a breed of men who were unwilling or unable to earn honest livings and preyed on those who did. The disorganized conditions in Mexico after the war with the United States gave, under the guise of further American interests and bringing civilization to backward lands, an attractive field for predatory excursions. Those who engaged in such expeditions were called filibusters, as were Lopez and his followers in their expedition to Cuba in 1851. Today the word *filibuster* denotes one who delays legislation by dilatory tactics. In those days, however, a filibuster was a freebooter; that is, an irregular military adventurer in quest of plunder; a buccaneer.

Walker came to public attention when he engaged in a filibustering fiasco to establish an independent "republic" of the Mexican states of Sonora and Southern California. A California jury, which apparently condoned crimes against Mexicans, acquitted him of violating the neutrality laws of the United States.

Soon after this incident he was recommended to Castellon, as one who could be of valuable assistance to restore the Democrats to power in Nicaragua.

In this era one of the routes of transportation from the eastern coast of the United States to California was by ship to Greytown on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. The Isthmus was crossed by boat travelling up the navigable San Juan River to Virgin Bay on Lake Nicaragua. From there it was only 13 miles by land to San Juan del Sur on the Pacific Coast. The last lap of the journey was then by boat northward to California. The route was operated by the Accessory Transit Company dominated by Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt.

In October 1855 Walker and his original followers in the Nicaraguan campaign, called the Immortals, with their ranks swollen by recruits travelling on the Transit Line, attacked and captured the City of Granada. Walker had no intention of being a tool for any Nicaraguan politician and established himself as the real ruler of the country. He made peace with the Legitimists by permitting them to name their own man as president and dictate their own terms. He consented to every demand they made, and when they saw how readily Walker agreed, they asked for more. When they were finished presenting their conditions, Walker mildly announced

that since he had given them everything they wanted, the least they could do was consent to his only request, which was to be the commander of the army. The Legitimists were embarrassed but to refuse then was awkward, so they consented. That was Walker's joker and he remained master of Nicaragua.

In order to retain his power he needed soldiers from the United States. The class of men who enlisted to serve in his ranks were hoodlums attracted by a promise of a free land and easy living after their service. They were drunkards and brawlers, but because they could fight when they were sober they were more valuable to Walker than were the indolent natives. He made a deal with Charles Morgan and C. K. Garrison, two stockholders of the Accessory Transit Company, to assist them in wresting the control of the company from Vanderbilt. In return they promised to recruit soldiers from the United States and transport them to Nicaragua free of charge to Walker. On the pretext that the company had violated its charter provisions and deprived the Nicaraguan treasury of a fair share of the income of the Transit Line, the property of the company was seized by the Government and its assets turned over to Morgan and Garrison. Walker's great mistake was that he failed to see that his line for the supply of recruits and ammunition from the United States was controlled by Vanderbilt. Morgan and Garrison had neither ships nor adequate resources and hence were incapable of fulfilling their commitments to him. Vanderbilt, after unsuccessfully attempting to conciliate Walker, became his implacable enemy. He negotiated a coalition of Legitimist Central American States headed by Costa Rica and fomented a war against Walker in which Nicaragua's compromise Legitimist president plotted against him. Walker removed him from office, held an election, the honesty of which is open to serious question, and had himself elected president.

The war with the coalition is marked by three major characteristics. The first was the stupidity of Walker's strategy and the utter incompetence of his officers. The second was that at several engagements his American rowdies got drunk at the climax of battle and were defeated. The third was that when the Legitimist armies were ready to follow up their advantages their ranks were decimated by cholera. Walker was never required to capitulate on the field of battle, but when he surrendered to Commander Charles Henry Davis of the United States Navy, his predicament was very bad, though not hopeless. Walker was giving the United States a diplomatic headache and Davis decided to save the lives of Americans fighting for Walker and ordered his marines to put an end to the fray. Subsequently the Costa Ricans admitted that at the time Davis compelled Walker to surrender cholera was preventing the allied armies from carrying on.

Walker was returned to the United States. He wrote a history of his wars in Nicaragua which seems to be regarded as authentic so far as events are concerned, but he rationalizes his behavior throughout for the purpose of self justification. He made several unsuccessful attempts to return to Nicaragua, but his last effort was fatal. He was captured by a British man o' war and turned over to Legitimist Honduras, where he was executed on September 12th, 1860, at the age of 36.

The note we publish was issued under the following circumstances: To attract recruits Walker promised each man a substantial tract of land. For their service in his army or navy they were paid in military scrip. (The Navy played an important part in the war and engaged in several battles on Lake Nicaragua, the high seas and on the San Juan River.) To enable him to keep his promise, Walker issued a decree in which he ordered that the estates of the "enemies of the republic" were to be confiscated and sold to the highest bidder. An "enemy of the republic" was, of course, any land owner of Legitimist sympathies. The decree provided that on the sale military scrip was to be received in payment. Since Walker's soldiers were the only ones holding military scrip, he was able to liquidate his debt to the army without cost to himself. Walker, in

his book, "The War In Nicaragua," at page 253, says, "All property declared confiscated was to be sold soon after the rendition of judgment (of confiscation), and military scrip was to be received in payment at the sale of such property, thus giving those who had been in the military service of the state an opportunity to secure their pay out of the estates of the persons engaged in the war against them."

The signature "Rogers" across the face of the note is undoubtedly the signature of William K. Rogers, who was Walker's "Confiscator General." The note bears the imprint of the manufacturer, "EL NICARAGUENSE PRINT," which was Walker's press that printed his propaganda newspaper, "EL NICARAGUENSE." Walker, it will be recalled, was a journalist and realized the value of a newspaper to shape favorable public opinion.

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## NUMISMATIC LEGENDS. I

### *The Premier's Life-Saving Medal*

This story, we think, is often told, and sometimes about the Iron Chancellor Bismarck. At least that was the worthy to whom we heard it attached first. Oddly enough, the narrator was not a numismatist at all, but the writer's father. Our Dad was not German, but as a young man he was ship's surgeon aboard the Holland-America Line S.S. *Zaandam*, and his best friend on the boat was the chief engineer, a Dutchman who had studied at a German University. Anyway, we suspect the story is of German origin, and over fifty years old, quite venerable enough to take its place in our series of legends. The hero has to be a diplomat.

Once upon a time a very young diplomat was invited to a banquet. It was a full dress affair, and it was expected that everyone would wear decorations. Our hero was the least distinguished person present and, strictly speaking, he had no decorations, but he had once saved a man from drowning, and had been awarded a medal for lifesaving, and this, quite properly, he decided to wear.

At the banquet was a fussy nobleman, who not only was decorated, but studied decorations. During the course of the evening he deigned to speak once to the obscure young man with the lone medal. "Young man," said the Count (for let us call him Count Cumsicumsa), "what is that medal you are wearing. I do not recall ever seeing it before." The reply was, "Sir, that is a lifesaving medal, which is the only decoration I have." "Very interesting," said the Count, and turned away.

Thirty years later our hero, having become prime minister, was to attend a banquet, again of diplomats, and heard the Count, now of advanced age, was to be present. The nobles and gentry arrived in full regalia. But the prime minister, while correctly attired, wore only a single decoration.

To him the Count was at length presented. His passion for medals was as strong as ever. He peered at the lone medal, and said, "Pardon, honored sir, but what is that medal you are wearing; I believe I recall seeing it just once before."

"Indeed, you are right, Count, you have seen it once before, and on me," was the reply. "It is my medal for lifesaving in my youth, and you asked about it when I met you thirty years ago, and had no other decoration. Now I have every decoration that you see worn in this room. But this one is my favorite, still." "Very interesting," said the Count, as he bowed profoundly, and turned away.

## U. S. FREAK COINS

By CHARLES W. SCHERMERHORN

Many coin collectors start collecting coins in date series or types or both, starting probably with the coppers then going into the nickel and silver coins. Then they start specializing or branching out into different categories; such as, Commemorative Half Dollars, Civil War and Hardtime Tokens, Transportation and Tax Tokens, Coins of the World, Colonials, Ancients, Paper Money, Encased Postage Stamps, Pattern and Trial Pieces, Gold Commemoratives and Type and Date Series, whichever their interest leans toward. But there comes a time when their collection becomes somewhat a stalemate; that is, the coins they need are few and hard to find, or they are too expensive for the average collector.

There are many other branches of coin collecting that I have not mentioned, but the one I have chosen for this paper I find a very interesting series, not only to the collector, but to the non-collector or layman, and it is the so-called U. S. Freak Coins. Many coins of this series are very easy to obtain from everyday circulated coins, other collectors and junk boxes, or they may be purchased very reasonably from coin collectors or at auctions. The main point is that your hunt is never over no matter where you look or how many specimens you have. Still, in this series you can place your coins next to each other without leaving an open space for a special date; in fact, some of the coins in this series do not even have a date. Every now and then during your hunt you will find a freak that is really rare or unique for you can truthfully say that no other person has a coin just like it.

I will divide the freaks into three classes, then I will describe some of the coins I have obtained in each class and tell how they probably came to be (as you know it is very difficult to obtain information from the Mint as to how and why certain freak coins happen). In this paper I have termed all coins freak that do not run true to form of the regulation die strikes.

*Class No. 1*—Intentional freaks; such as, re-engraved dies to restore worn dies, to change dates or to correct engravers' errors causing double-lettering, overdates, double and triple profiles. Some collectors may not classify overdates as freaks, but they are interesting and different, so I have added a few of these coins to my freak coin collection.

Overdates in the earlier coins are far too numerous to list as freaks and belong in a category of their own; there are at least three overdates in the half cents and many more in the large cents, at least 16 of which are listed in the catalogue. Then we find many overdates in the silver coins. Most of these re-engraved dates, I think, were done to save making new dies when the old dies were still good except for the date, although some were done to correct an error; as the 1851 or 81 large cent. Other re-engraving was done to correct engravers' errors on other parts of the coins; as, the fraction 1/100 over 1/000 in the 1801 large cent.

More recent coins in the overdate class are the 1918 over 17d nickel, 1918 over 17s quarter, and the 1942 over 41 dime. I think all of these were due to wartime conditions; shortage of labor and material. Another re-engraved coin of recent date is the 1939 Jefferson nickel, some of which have the words "Monticello" and "Five Cents" in double letters, done to restore badly worn dies.

There have been found re-engraved lettering and dates on some of the Indian Head cents, so these also bear watching. I have here a beautiful 1834 large cent with a triple profile. It also has a circular die break on the obverse connecting all the stars. I also have an 1835 large cent with a double profile. These extra profiles are caused by re-engraving, which leaves two or three outlines to the face because the engraver is not able to recut the die in the exact place. We may not detect many re-engraved coins due to their exactness.



*Class No. 2*—Unintentional but unavoidable and undetected freaks; such as damaged planchet, broken die, off center striking, double struck coins, clipped planchet, edge stamping, clogged die, brockage (the striking of two coins at the same time), broad flan due to ring collar not being in place, and a reverse die impression or blanked dies caused by the two dies coming together under pressure. There could be many other reasons for mis-struck coins. In the earlier coins you will find many engraver's mistakes which are classified as die varieties or errors.

Many of the freaks get through to the public, but not undetected, for many are detected at the mint but found to be so minor that they do not grant rejecting from circulation. I will list some of the freaks I have here of Class 2:

- 1801 three errors, 1802 stemless wreath, 1802 fraction 1/000, all large cents and all due to engraver's errors.
- 1804 spike chin half cent and 1807 comet large cent, probably due to slip of engraver's tool on die.
- 1796 large cent with "H" in Liberty in place of the letter "B" due either to engraver's error, die break or clogged die.
- 1804 large cent broken die, 1851 large cent perfect cross die break, 1934 Lincoln die break at shoulder, 1834 circular die break all due of course to a break in the die. You will find many freak coins due to chipped or cracked dies.
- 1807 large cent reverse crosswise, 1807 large cent reverse upside down, 1864 two-cent piece reverse upside down, 1787 Connecticut cent reverse crosswise. These four freaks were due to improper setting of dies.
- 1787 Connecticut cent, 1942 dime, 1920 cent, all clipped planchet coins due to the stamping of the planchets too close to the last stamping causing a small crescent of metal to remain from coin.
- 1939 straight edge cent, due to stamping too close to end of thickness strip.
- 1940 throatless Jefferson nickel, short braid Jefferson nickel, probably due to that part of the die not being engraved. This could have been corrected later, being reason why so few are found. [Clogged dies might produce such effects.—ED.]
- 1937d three legged buffalo nicked, 1922d cent without the D, 1930 solid O cent, 1930d solid O cent and 1943 light struck 4 steel zinc cent, all due to clogged dies or that part of die not being engraved. You will find many freaks of this variety if you study your coins.
- 1940s God We Rust quarter, due to light striking so the word "In" and the letter "T" does not show in the motto.
- 1921 damaged die dime making date appear as 4921.  
Cracked and damaged planchet coins, due to metal being defective.
- 1943 flaked or laminated nickels due to improper annealing while being rolled down to thickness.
- 1840 large cent way off center very unusual, off center struck small cents, due to planchet not being placed within ring collar.
- 1937 broad flan unreeded edge dime; due to reeded ring collar not being in place.
- 1941 broad flan unreeded edge dime; due to planchet not being in center of reeded ring collar, showing some of reeding on surface of coin.
- 1944 cent with white zinc strips across reverse, due to a zinc deposit left on machinery from the 1943 cent.
- 1944 large cent. This cent has the diameter of our nickel and the striking is well centered.

- This is due to the ring collar not being in place, forcing the metal to spread out. The word "We" is way out of line in the motto "In God We Trust."
- 1797 double struck Connecticut cent, 1903 Indian cent and 1943 Lincoln cent, both double struck, due to the dropping of the coins back on the die and being struck again a little off the first striking, showing many parts of the coins double both on obverse and reverse.
- Liberty seated dime of the 1860 type double struck, the second striking being way off cents and crosswise covering date and causing coin to spread out and appear as though twinned; a very unusual freak.
- 1944 thick cent. This coin is eighty-thousandths of an inch thick or the same thickness as our half dollar. 1944 thick nickel. This coin is sixteen-thousandths of an inch thicker than the regular nickel. These are due to the thickness strip not being drawn down thin enough.
- Thin Lincoln cents. These coins are much too thin to receive perfect die strike. One is  $\frac{1}{3}$  the thickness of the regular Lincoln cent, the other is thin only on one-half so that only half of the coin is struck, the other half being blank, both on obverse and reverse.
- 1911 large liberty head nickel. This coin has the diameter of our twenty-cent piece, believed due to the dies being swedged out in proportion from great useage as the whole design appears larger and the coin is not distorted. Further reason for believing this is so is that more Liberty head nickels were made at the mint in 1911 than any other year.
- 1939 large nickel. This coin is very unusual. It is larger than our quarter in diameter and the portrait of Jefferson and home at Monticello are just as large in proportion. This is probably due to dies being too soft and swedging out from use.
- 1919 partly struck cent. This cent is only  $\frac{1}{3}$  struck; the rest of the planchet is blank. The obverse shows only part of Lincoln from his chin down; the rest, his face and head was not struck, only "erty" of Liberty shows, and all of the date. On the reverse appears the same portion of Lincoln's portrait, "erty" and date, but all are in reverse and incused; this is all due to a coin first being struck and remaining in the die; the second coin of planchet being placed partly on the first coin, the obverse die partly striking the second coin; the reverse taking the incused impression from the coin already in the press.
- 1867 shield nickel, with part of the shield incused on the reverse and part of the 5 and some of the stars incused under the shield on the obverse. I also have a 1944 dime with some of the leaves of the reverse incused in the field in front of the face of Mercury on the obverse. Both of these freaks were caused by the dies coming together under pressure without a coin between them, forcing some of the metal of the opposite die into the concaved part of the other. When coins are struck by dies of this nature they will show incused design on opposite sides of the coins.
- 1863 Civil War tokens; one a clipped planchet, one a broken die, and the other off center. You will find many freaks in these tokens, as many were poorly struck.
- 1944 flange wheel cent. This cent has a high wire edge on the reverse and a flange similar to that of a railway car wheel on obverse, caused by the planchet being too thick and from great pressure forcing some of the metal between the ring collar and die.

*Class No. 3*—Intentional but unlawful freaks. In this class we may find some very interesting and unique coins. They are made by the workers in the mint primarily for souvenirs for a friend on the outside and probably only one is made. This is a very serious Federal offense. If dis-

covered, it means losing a job, paying a heavy fine, or Federal prison sentence or both, but this practice is highly guarded against by very strict regulations and inspections, so few of these ever get out.

If this practice was not guarded against by the government the country would be flooded with all sorts of freak coins.

I only have two coins in this class, the first being an 1899 Indian cent with a very high up set edge. I think this cent was taken from the pocket of a mint worker and run through the dime upsetting or milling machine, the greater thickness and diameter making the upset edge very high. The perfect edge and present diameter lead me to believe this.

The other coin has Jefferson on obverse and his home at Monticello on the reverse, but the coin is much smaller and thinner than a nickel and the edge is very irregular, proving there was not enough metal to fill out the dies to the ring collar. The coin is so small that the date and mint mark, if any, does not show. This coin was found in a bag of 1941 Philadelphia mint nickels from the Federal Reserve Bank, and is of 900 fine silver. It has the exact weight of a new dime, so you see it must have been a dime planchet placed in the nickel press, and when they found that they could not get it out they threw it in the bag of nickels as this was an extra coin over the regular amount.

You might add to your freak collection altered coins by would-be engravers. These are done either for a novelty purpose or for fraud. If altered for fraud, then these coins belong in the counterfeit class, and any one doing this for fraud should be arrested; in fact, I think it is unlawful for anyone to wilfully deface or destroy any United States coins or paper currency.

I could tell a lot about altered coins but find it would take up too much space in this paper. The main purpose of this paper is to acquaint other collectors with the possibilities of a collection of this series.

It has only taken about two years to acquire some 150 items and probably could have obtained many more had I devoted more time during this period. I think some of my freak coins are unique and interesting. What do you think?

May 24, 1945.

## AN UNPUBLISHED PATTERN—HALF-DOLLAR OF 1855

By WENDELL S. HALL

Reprinted from *Princeton Alumni Weekly*, July 6, 1945

A collector's dream—that of finding a rare coin among an unsorted mixture—came true recently in the process of recataloging the American coins in the University Library's collection. The coin is a regular 1855 half-dollar in every respect except that it is of *aluminum* instead of silver. Experts consulted said that it was the occasional practice of the mint to coin "trial pieces" in other metals than gold or silver, but that all were rare and never placed in circulation. The earliest aluminum trial piece hitherto discovered is dated 1863. It is surmised that the Library's specimen was coined as a souvenir sometime before the old dies were destroyed in 1869. No duplicates of the coin are known. Nothing pertaining to its origin or how it came into the collection has been found. [*This would be A. & W. 194 m*]

## BOOK REVIEWS

### *Monedalandia—Manual de Numismatica*

By JORGE ELMEZIAN, Buenos Aires, 1945, 144 Pages

We are indeed grateful to the author for sending us a copy of this little general introduction to the study of coins. The purpose is to tell the general collector of the fundamentals of coinage and of the study of coins. There are excellent illustrations of old fashioned and modern mint machinery, of coins of almost all periods. There are brief explanations of technical terms—which seem to us admirably done. And there is a brief survey of modern coinage. Brief as it is the section on the origin of coinage is a model of commonsense treatment.

Emphasis is laid, as is natural in Argentina, upon the coinage of that country. There is a list of all denominations of the coins of Argentina by date and mint; each of these is given a number. We believe many collectors will find it convenient to classify their coins from that country by Elmezian references.

We add, it is a pleasure to record the production of this fine little book. For North American readers we may say the language is direct and simple—not too difficult for those with only a slight knowledge of Spanish. M.

## THE KIMONIAN DEKADRACHMS

### *A Contribution to Sicilian Numismatics*

By DR. J. H. JONKHEES, Utrecht, 1941

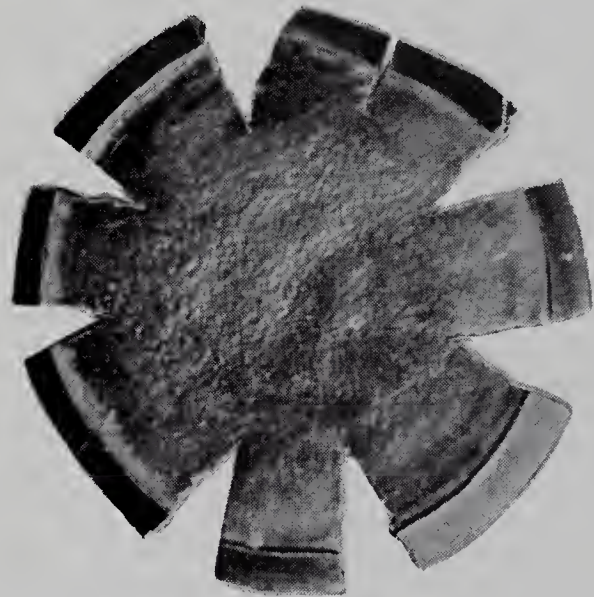
This book is a catalogue of 187 specimens of Kimon's famous dekadrachm known to the author. It expands on the identification of die varieties made by Regling, who knew of only 87 coins. The dies are arranged chronologically to the best of the author's ability from the comparatively small number of coins available. The number of coins is insufficient to establish a line of sequences of die combinations. The progression of die breaks, however, is helpful.

A novel method of measuring relief is employed. An apparatus was devised in which a row of ordinary pins with their heads removed were placed next to each other closely, and clamped between two pieces of metal. When the gadget is placed over the coin the pins are dropped so that they come to rest on the coin in a straight line. The pins are then clamped again. The points of the pins indicate the relief of the coin along the chosen line. The result is projected on a screen by an epidioscope and the result drawn accurately. The apparatus is not perfect because there is a distance between the pin points equivalent to the diameter of a pin. Seven fixed points to the centimeter were obtained, which are sufficient for practical purposes.

Of considerable interest to this reviewer is the author's contention that Kimon and Euainetos made only the first set of dies for their splendid dekadrachms, and that all subsequent dies were made by other engravers even though bearing Kimon's and Euainetos' signatures. His conclusions are based on the comparisons of styles. The general idea, however, is not new. Dr. Jonkees' interpretation of slight differences is impressive, but admittedly not conclusive. Instances of false signatures are given in the field of vase painting. There is a difference between false signatures on vases and coins. On vases they were forgeries made for deception. On coins they identify the design with its creator while the engraver remained anonymous and made no pretense at plagiarism.

There are chapters on the identification of the work of other great coin engravers of antiquity, on the technique of striking, on metrology and hoards, which are of considerable interest.

H. J. S.





MONEDAS DE CHILE, 1743-1944. Superintendent of the Mint, Santiago, Chile, 1945. \$10.00.

This book is an official catalogue of Chilean coinage and as such is a valuable addition to the literature of Chilean Numismatics.

All notes are in Spanish. The preface, however, which is in English, gives a short history of the Santiago mint. From it we learn that the mint was established in 1743 by Philip V, King of Spain, and that on October 1st, 1743, by royal decree Don Francisco Garcia de Huidobro was appointed perpetual treasurer of the mint and that the post was to enure to the benefit of his heirs and successors. Don Francisco was to pay all expenses and was entitled to all the profits of the operation of the mint. In addition to his minting privileges, Don Francisco also received the exclusive right to exploit mines. The mint was operated by the de Huidobro family until 1772 when it was taken over by the Crown of Spain. Chile became independent in 1810, but the portrait of Ferdinand VII continued to appear on the coins for several years because unsettled conditions rendered it impossible for new dies to be designed. The first coin struck in the name of the Republic of Chile was in 1817.

Each coin is illustrated by photograph except in a few instances, in which line-cuts are used. A floor plan of the Santiago Mint is appended. H. J. S.

THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS AT EPHEŒUS by BLUMA L. TRELL. Numismatic Notes and Monographs No. 107, American Numismatic Society, 1945.

Some years ago, at the Museum of the American Numismatic Society, a group of research workers under the guidance of Dr. Lehman-Hartleben, of the New York University School of Fine Arts, undertook an extensive study of architectural coin types as related to the actual appearances of the buildings represented. The latest publication resulting from the group's efforts is this monograph. The author undertakes from the examination of about 1800 coins to reconstruct the actual appearance of the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The method employed was to assemble and examine all known coins bearing a representation of the building, and to compare them with temple types of the same region to determine local customs in representing buildings on coins, and lastly to subject the coins to archaeological, epigraphical and literary scrutiny.

From her investigations she resolves five numismatic conventions applicable to the territory surrounding Ephesus: 1) "abbreviations" in the representation of Temples is common. By abbreviation is meant the reduction or omission of the number and style of details and stylization. 2) The architectural order is always correct. Three orders appear, the Ionic, Corinthian and Composite. 3) The number of columns may be reduced, but never increased. 4) Details may be omitted, but details that were not on the Temple were never added on the coin engraving. 5) The number of steps is a stylized detail.

Much credit is due the author for the scientific manner in which she handles her source materials and, for what appears to this reviewer, the soundness and profundity of the conclusions she draws. The book is a model of disciplined investigation. The result is shown on the frontispiece, a reconstruction of the front elevation of the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, drawn by Mr. Stuart Shaw, of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. H. J. S.

HANDBOEK VAN NEDERLANDSCHE MUNTER VAN 1795-1945. Door JACQUES SCHULMAN. Amsterdam, 1946. 158 pp. 15 florins (about \$6.00).

This is a really important contribution to the study of modern numismatics. The author lists by date and denomination all coins of the Netherlands since 1795, and where it is possible, tells how many pieces of each kind were struck. In addition there is a record of all known patterns, and of coins struck for other countries at the Dutch mint. Each distinct variety is given a number, and references to Dutch coins will presumably, in the near future, be conveniently made by Jacques Schulman numbers. The work, of course, is in the Dutch language. But the arrangement is simple, and it may be used by any interested collector easily without special preparation. We hail it as a book of great usefulness. M.

## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

*Query.* In compiling a dictionary of American words, we have encountered the expression "a sevenpence" as the name of a coin. Example: apparently relating to the Southern U. S., about 1880, "Poor Lem had to borrow a quarter here and a sevenpence there." Do you know the coin meant? M. M. MATHEWS.

*Answer.* We think this must relate to the old custom of reckoning in shillings as a "money of account." The value of a shilling varied from state to state, but was never as much as a real British shilling of 24c; in New York it was 12½c. We are of the opinion that the only possible coin referred to is a dime. But this is more a matter of pure reasoning than knowledge, for we never heard the expression. Comment from readers who know of any definite printed use of the word, or who recollect hearing it, will be gratefully received. M.

*Query.* Has there been any further progress on the deciphering of the so-called secret letters on a Syrian tetradrachm, published in No. 8 of the *Review*? Y. S.

*Answer.* We have seen no further comment from the author. We are, however, able to say that the Keeper of Coins at the British Museum communicated to us his belief that the supposed secret inscription was probably merely a matter of chance; without denying the occasional occurrence of secret markings, he did not believe any really existed on the coin in question. It must be remembered that the *Review* publishes numismatic papers which seem to contain ideas of genuine interest, when convinced of the good faith of the author at the time a paper is submitted. Scholarship proceeds by the trial and error method.

## THE 32ND ISSUE OF THE SOCIETY OF MEDALISTS

We illustrate the 32nd issue of the Society of Medalists. The dark bronze medal, 2⅞ inches in diameter, is the work of Berthold Nebel, who shows the horrors of modern warfare. One side, void of inscription, depicts an American soldier aiding a wounded comrade, while the other illustrates the explosion of an atomic bomb with the legend WORLD UNITY OR OBLIVION. The catastrophic effect of the efficiency with which man has succeeded in the mass slaughter of his brothers is shown by the sea of dead in the exergue. The artist has succeeded in conveying his pictorial message—the futility of war and the worldwide fright of this new and terrible engine of death. The execution of this medal and the adaptation of the designs to the round medium are excellent. H. J. S.



## THE IRON CROSS

By EDMUND WARE MAY

[Specimens of the German Iron Cross occur very frequently in American collections. A great many have recently been brought home to this country by returning American soldiers as souvenirs. Under the circumstances there has been considerable demand for exact and detailed information, and this has been relatively hard to obtain. Indeed, so far as mere conversation on the subject is concerned, a good deal of vagueness, and some actually incorrect ideas have been met with. The following article is based on study of what are believed to be reliable sources, and examination of specimens of most of the varieties. We believe that will be welcomed by students of numismatics as a contribution of timely interest.—M.]

The allied victory at Waterloo brought to a close Prussia's war of liberation, terminating Napoleon's lust for conquest once and for all time. In the light of later events, it does seem indeed paradoxical that the Iron Cross of the Kingdom of Prussia was established during the War of Liberation; liberation from the military empire of France that later became license to terrorize and enslave those nations unfortunate enough to stand in the way of "Kultur" or the New Order.

It was on March 10, 1813, that Frederick William III established the Iron Cross both as a reward for personal courage under fire and an incentive to greater deeds of military valor. The pattern laid down in the original order of establishment has been pretty generally followed up to the present time, some few additions having been made to fit special circumstances. In describing these decorations the highest grade will be dealt with first, then so on down through the grades to the lowest. Few are the Germanic orders or decorations that logically follow a numerical class system with the first class as the highest, and the Iron Cross is no exception.

Instituted July 26, 1815, the *Blücher Star*<sup>1</sup> may be considered a special form of the decoration as but one man received it, General Field Marshal Prince Blücher, for whom it was named. He received it in 1815 for his victory at Belle Alliance (Waterloo), June 18, 1815. The *Blücher Star* consists of a plain, smooth cross pattee in iron within a silver frame placed on the center of a star or plaque of eight points made up of 48 golden rays. The reverse is perfectly plain, having a pin and catch for attachment to the uniform coat at the left side.

The *Grand Cross* of the Iron Cross measures 64x64mm and is suspended at the throat by means of a broad, black, moire ribbon having a white stripe at either side. The obverse<sup>2</sup> is plain, black iron; the reverse bears in the center three oak leaves, on the top arm the crowned letters F W (the cypher of Frederick William III), and at the bottom of the lower arm the year of institution, 1813. During the war period, 1813-1815, four *Grand Crosses* were distributed to General Field Marshal Prince Blücher, and Generals von Bülow, von Tauentzien, and York. Blücher received his, and also the title of Prince, for the battle of Katzbach, August 26, 1813; Bülow for the battle of Dennewitz, September 6, 1813; Tauentzien for the capture of Wittenberg, 1814; and York for his victory at Laon, March 9-10, 1814, and the various actions before Paris. After the conclusion of the war, three more *Grand Crosses* were awarded, one to General Count von Kleist for the battle of Kulm, August 29-30, 1813; another to Crown Prince Charles John (Bernadotte) of Sweden for his victory at Grossbeeren, August 23, 1813, and the last to the Russian Lieutenant General Count Tolstoi. As this is an excessively rare decoration, it is only natural that copies or "restrikes" turn up from time to time to fill the demand by collectors.

The *First Class Cross* of the Iron Cross, which measures 41x41mm, has a plain obverse, and its reverse is also plain except for pin and catch for fastening to the uniform coat at the left side without ribbon. In 1817, 670 *First Class Crosses* had been awarded to soldiers of the Prussian army. As these figures indicate, the decoration is rare and has, of course, been imitated.

The lowest grade, the *Second Class Cross* of the Iron Cross, also measures 41x41mm and has the plain obverse, while its reverse is similar to the above mentioned Grand Cross reverse. A loop on the edge of the top arm and ring form its suspension device, and it is worn on the left breast suspended from one of two varieties of ribbon. The ribbon for combatants is black with a white stripe at either side, while non-combatants wear the cross suspended from a white ribbon having black side stripes. A total of 8,542 of these crosses was awarded to Prussian soldiers.<sup>3</sup> This decoration is not rare, although today it is not readily obtainable. In the past dealers in Germany have offered original specimens of this class for from four to six dollars.

In the fifty-five years following Waterloo, Prussia's military prowess grew and with it her wars with her neighbors. The Rhineland, Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark, Austria, all felt the might of Prussia, but it was not until the 19th of July, 1870, the day France declared war on Prussia, that the event was deemed important enough to revive the Iron Cross, for on this day King William I ordered it renewed. Unlike the issue of 1813, the crosses of 1870, with one exception, have both obverses and reverses showing a design, otherwise they follow the pattern laid down in 1813.

The *Grand Cross* of the Iron Cross (64x64mm) bears a W in its center, the royal crown of Prussia in the upper portion of the top arm and the year of re-institution, 1870, at the bottom of the lower arm. The reverse is similar to that of 1813, showing the crowned FW cypher at the top, the oak leaves in the center and the date, 1813, at the bottom. As in the 1813 issue, this cross is worn at throat suspended from a broad, black moire ribbon having white side stripes. Nine of these *Grand Crosses* were distributed, the Prussian Crown Prince Frederick William being the first to receive this grade for his victories at Weissenburg and Wörth. Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia also received this cross as did Crown Prince Albert of Saxony and General Field Marshal Count von Moltke. Generals von Manteuffel, von Göben and von Werder were also recipients, while after the successful conclusion of the war, on the request of his staff, William I, King of Prussia and newly proclaimed German Emperor, was invested on June 16, 1871, along with Grand Duke Frederick Francis II of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

The *First Class Cross* of the Iron Cross (42x42mm) bears the same obverse as the Grand Cross, but its reverse has a pin and catch for attachment to the uniform without ribbon. Nineteen hundred and three crosses of this class were awarded to Prussian soldiers.

*Second Class Crosses* are similar in design to the Grand Cross but measure 42x42mm. Like the cross of 1813, this grade was awarded in two divisions distinguishable by the ribbon. Black with white side stripes showed that the wearer was a combatant while white with black side stripes denoted the non-combatant. As before, this class is worn on the left breast. A total of 45,768 *Second Class Crosses* of both divisions was distributed.<sup>4</sup>

Of these three grades of the 1870 Iron Cross, the Grand Cross, of course, is rare. Restrikes, ranging in size from 60x60mm to 67x67mm, have appeared from time to time in German dealers'

<sup>1</sup> Up to the beginning of the Second World War in the Army Museum (Zeughaus), Berlin.

<sup>2</sup> An Order of April 19, 1838, allowed the wearing of the Grand and Second Class Crosses with the side bearing a design as the obverse.

<sup>3</sup> Arthur Reichel in his booklet "127 Jahre Eisernes Kreuz," Dresden 1940, gives these figures: Combatants Second Class 9,100; including those with inheritance right 16,100; Non-combatants First Class, 2, Second Class 371

<sup>4</sup> Reichel's figures for the 1870 Crosses are: First Class 1,319, Second Class Combatants 43,242, Non-combatants 4,002.

catalogues at from twenty to thirty dollars. The First Class Cross has been offered at from \$5.50 to \$7.50, while crosses of the Second Class have been offered for as little as two dollars or as high as five dollars.

On August 18, 1895, Emperor William II instituted the *Oak Leaves* to the Iron Cross to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the victories of the Franco-Prussian war. This device is in the form of three closely bunched oak leaves bearing the numeral 25 in raised figures and was awarded to holders of the Iron Cross. It is in silver and measures 26x15mm. A Second Class Cross bearing this added honor was offered by a German dealer for four dollars.

On the outbreak of the First World War, the Iron Cross was renewed for a second time by Emperor William II on August 5, 1914. Although still a decoration of the Kingdom of Prussia, two important departures were made from the system laid down in 1813. Members of the Imperial German Navy now became eligible for award, and for the first time the two lower classes were thrown open to non-Prussian Germans. The decoration was further extended by an order of March 16, 1916, to the non-German forces allied to Germany. This 1914 Iron Cross is similar in all details to that of 1870 except that the date 1914 replaces 1870.

The *Blücher Star* of the Iron Cross of 1914 was awarded but once; to General Field Marshal von Hindenburg.<sup>5</sup> It bears a representation of the obverse of the 1914 cross but is otherwise similar to and worn in the same manner as the Blücher Star of 1813.

The *Grand Cross* of the Iron Cross of 1914 (64x64mm) is worn in the same manner and from the same ribbon as the one of 1870. Emperor William II, Prince Leopold of Bavaria, and General Field Marshals von Hindenburg, von Mackensen and Ludendorff were the recipients. Restrikes have been plentiful at prices ranging from twenty to thirty dollars.

Except for its date the *First Class Cross* of the Iron Cross of 1914 is similar to that of 1870, as is the *Second Class Cross*, which as before was awarded in two divisions. The size of all classes is 42x42mm, and each is worn in the same manner as the corresponding classes of the 1870 cross. These crosses have been offered at from two to five dollars by dealers in Europe.

Possessors of the 1870 Iron Cross who were again awarded the Iron Cross in the First World War received the *1914 Bar* in lieu of the 1914 cross. It is worn on the ribbon of the Second Class Cross, or on the ribbon alone in the buttonhole if the wearer holds the First Class Cross. This is a plain rectangular bar of silver (33.5x8mm) bearing in the center a representation of the Iron Cross of 1914 (12.5x12.5mm). The field of the bar is stippled and the smooth, flat rim is about .5mm wide.

The awards for this war terminated on March 31, 1924, with the following totals:

Blücher Star .....	1
Grand Cross .....	5
First Class Cross.....	218,000
Second Class—Combatants .....	5,196,000
Second Class—Non-Combatants .....	13,000

For the third time the Iron Cross was renewed by Hitler on Sedan Day, September 1, 1939. Several radical changes were made. The decoration was made a national one; the changing of the central black stripe of the ribbon to red and the removal from the reverse design all attributes of the Kingdom of Prussia denote this. A new class was also added, a class having many variations showing advancement in grade. As it was awarded for conspicuous gallantry in the face of enemy fire or for outstanding leadership in the field the non-combatant division of the

<sup>5</sup> In the possession of the Hindenburg family at Neudeck, West Prussia.

second class was abolished. All classes have the same obverse, an upset gamma swastika in the center and the date of renewal, 1939, at the bottom of the lower arm. The reverses of all classes, except the first, show the year of institution, 1813, on the bottom arm.

The *Grand Cross* of the Iron Cross measures 64x64mm and is worn at the throat from a ribbon 57mm wide, the central red portion being 27mm, while the white side and black edge stripes measure 7mm and 8mm respectively.

The *Knight's Cross with Golden Oak Leaves and Swords with Diamonds* is the next in grade. The Cross measures 48.5x48.5mm, the Oak Leaves and Swords in gold 24.5x27.5mm. The Leaves, of which there are three, one placed over two, and the hilts of the Swords are set with small diamonds. This grade, and all the following Knight's Crosses, are worn at the throat suspended from a ribbon 44mm wide, the red portion measuring 22mm and the white and black stripes 6mm and 5mm respectively.

The *Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords with Diamonds* is similar in all respects to the preceding except that the Oak Leaves and Swords device is made of silver.

The *Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords* is in its turn similar to the preceding with the diamonds omitted.

The *Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves* is like the preceding with the Swords omitted. This device measures 20x19mm, and was instituted on June 3, 1940.

The *Knight's Cross* of the Iron Cross is similar to the preceding crosses with a plain double oval ribbon ring serving as the suspender.

The *First Class Cross* of the Iron Cross measures 44x44mm and has the same obverse as the preceding, while a pin and catch are on the plain reverse for attachment to the left side of the uniform without ribbon.

The *Second Class Cross* of the Iron Cross also measures 44x44mm and has the same obverse and reverse designs as the Grand and Knight's Crosses. It is worn on the left breast suspended from a ribbon 30mm wide.

To those holders of the 1914 Iron Cross, who might again be awarded the Iron Cross of 1939, the *1939 Bar* was instituted in two classes. This device is in the form of the "hoheitszeichen" placed above a straight bar with diagonally clipped ends and bears the date 1939. The *1939 Bar* to the First Class Iron Cross 1914 is 30mm high; the date bar is 29mm across and the wingspread of the eagle is 44mm. This bar is worn pinned to the uniform directly above the First Class Cross of 1914. The *1939 Bar* to the Second Class Cross of 1914 is worn on the ribbon of the cross or on the ribbon alone when worn through the buttonhole. This bar is somewhat smaller than that of the first class, the height remaining the same but the wingspread of the eagle is 30mm, while the width of the date bar is 27mm. Up to January, 1945, over 101,000 of these bars of both classes had been issued.

Of the various classes of the 1939 Iron Cross, the following are the approximate number of pieces awarded to the middle of January, 1945:

Grand Cross .....	1
Knight's Cross—Golden Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds.....	17
Same—Silver Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds .....	42
Same—Silver Oak Leaves and Swords .....	671
Same—Silver Oak Leaves .....	1,348
Same—Without Oak Leaves .....	3,042
First Class Cross .....	734,006
Second Class Cross.....	5,862,460
Iron Crosses (all classes) to German allies.....	125,000

Nachdem ich mich entschlossen habe, das Deutsche Volk zur Abwehr gegen die ihm drohenden Angriffe zu den Waffen zu rufen, erneuere ich eingedenk der heldenmütigen Kämpfe, die Deutschlands Söhne in den früheren großen Kriegen zum Schutze der Heimat bestanden haben, den Orden des Eisernen Kreuzes.

#### Artikel 1

Das Eiserne Kreuz wird in folgender Abstufung und Reihenfolge verliehen:

- Eisernes Kreuz 2.Klasse,
- Eisernes Kreuz 1.Klasse,
- Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes,
- Großkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes.

#### Artikel 2

Das Eiserne Kreuz wird ausschließlich für besondere Tapferkeit vor dem Feinde und für hervorragende Verdienste in der Truppenführung verliehen.

Die Verleihung einer höheren Klasse setzt den Besitz der vorangehenden Klasse voraus.

#### Artikel 3

Die Verleihung des Großkreuzes behalte ich mir vor für überragende Taten, die den Verlauf des Krieges entscheidend beeinflussen.

#### Artikel 4

Die 2.Klasse und die 1.Klasse des Eisernen Kreuzes gleichen in Größe und Ausführung den bisherigen mit der Maßgabe, daß auf der Vorderseite das Hakenkreuz und die Jahreszahl 1939 angebracht sind.

Die 2.Klasse wird an einem schwarz-weiß-roten Bande im Knopfloch oder an der Schnalle, die 1.Klasse ohne Band auf der linken Brustseite getragen.

Das Ritterkreuz ist ~~mindestens~~ größer als das Eiserne Kreuz 1.Klasse und wird am Halse mit schwarz-weiß-rotem Bande getragen.

Das Großkreuz ist etwa doppelt so groß wie das Eiserne Kreuz 1.Klasse, hat anstelle der eilbernen eine goldene Einfassung und wird am Halse an einem breiteren schwarz-weiß-roten Bande getragen.

#### Artikel 5

Ist der Beliehene schon im Besitz einer oder beider Klassen des Eisernen Kreuzes des Weltkrieges, so erhält er anstelle eines zweiten Kreuzes eine silberne Spange mit dem Hoheitszeichen und der Jahreszahl 1939 zu dem Eisernen Kreuz des Weltkrieges verliehen; die Spange wird beim Eisernen Kreuz 2.Klasse auf dem Bande getragen, beim Eisernen Kreuz 1.Klasse über dem Kreuz angesteckt.

#### Artikel 6

Der Beliehene erhält eine Besitzurkunde.

#### Artikel 7

Das Eiserne Kreuz verbleibt nach Ableben des Beliehenen als Erinnerungstück den Hinterbliebenen.

#### Artikel 8

Die Durchführungsbestimmungen erläßt der Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht im Einvernehmen mit dem Staatsminister und Chef der Präsidialkanzlei.

Berlin, den 1. September 1939

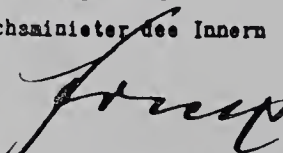
Der Führer




Der Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht



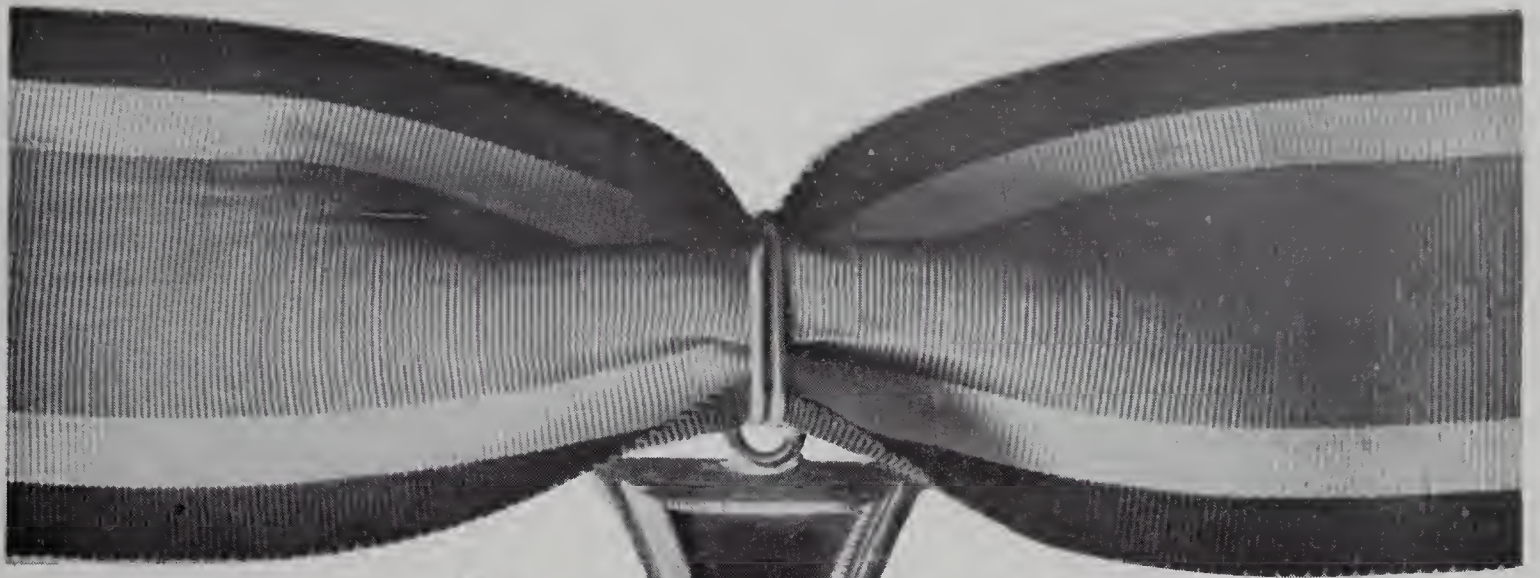
Der Reichsminister des Innern



Der Staatsminister und Chef der Präsidialkanzlei  
des Führers und Reichskanzlers







GRAND

CROSS



KNIGHT'S  
CROSS

WITH OAK LEAVES  
AND SWORDS









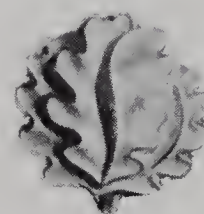
1914 BAR TO THE  
1870 CROSS



1939 BAR TO THE  
1914 CROSS



FIRST CLASS CROSS



OAK LEAVES TO THE  
KNIGHT'S CROSS



OBVERSE

SECOND  
CLASS  
CROSS



REVERSE





IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS  
UND OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS  
DER WEHRMACHT  
VERLEIHE ICH  
DEM

*Hauptwachtel Friedrich Maier*  
*6/ Pz. Gren. Regt. 361*

DAS  
EISERNE KREUZ  
1. KLASSE

*Größe . 9.5*      *1943*



*Josef Gmeh*

(DIENSTGRAD UND DIENSTSTELLUNG)

Generalleutnant u. Div. Kommandeur



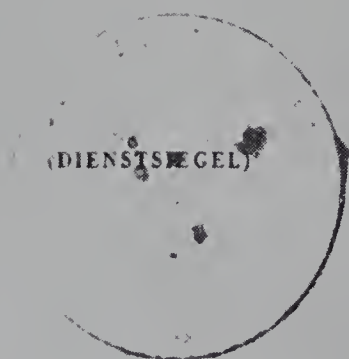
IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS  
UND OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS  
DER WEHRMACHT  
VERLEIHE ICH  
DEM

Gefreiten Alois Korzec

9./Gren.Rgt.692

DAS  
EISERNE KREUZ  
2. KLASSE

Div.Gef.Std. 17. Okt. 1943



*Korzec*  
Oberst  
u.Führer der 339.Inf.Div.

(DIENSTGRAD UND DIENSTSTELLUNG)

*tr*

Hitler's decree renewing the Iron Cross in 1939 did not authorize the Oak Leaves and variations of this device. The Oak Leaves in silver were authorized on June 3, 1940, while the added Swords, the Diamonds, and finally the device in gold were all instituted after August, 1940.

A diploma or certificate of award (*Besitzzeugnis*) accompanied each bestowal of the Iron Cross up to about the middle of 1944, but since that time probably both to save paper and simplify official procedure, the particulars of the award were noted in the proper section of the recipient's "Soldbuch," a combined military and identity record, and pay book that each member of the various branches of the service kept on his person while on duty. When going on leave the Soldbuch was exchanged for the "Wehrpass," which had been filed at headquarters. On return from leave, the Wehrpass was surrendered and the Soldbuch reclaimed. Thus one or the other was on file at all times, serving to indicate the possessor's whereabouts.

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